MARVEL MASTERWORKS®

THE UNCANNY X-MEN®

VOLUME 12

THE UNCANNY X-MEN Nos. 194-200,
ANNUAL No. 9, NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL EDITION No. 1,
BIZARRE ADVENTURES No. 27 & NIGHTCRAWLER Nos. 1-4
CHRIS CLAREMONT, JOHN ROMITA JR,
DAVE COCKRUM & ARTHUR ADAMS

MARVEL

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

THE UNCANNY X-MEN

VOLUME 12

COLLECTING

THE UNCANNY X-MEN NOS. 194-200,
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BIZARRE ADVENTURES NO. 27 & NIGHTCRAWLER NOS. 1-4

CHRIS CLAREMONT • JOHN ROMITA JR.
DAVE COCKRUM • ARTHUR ADAMS

Collection Editor
Cory Sedlmeier

Book Design
Nickel DesignWorks

Director, Licensed Publishing
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Digital Manager/Production
Tim Smith 3

Digital Production
Kou Chen &
Rachel Young

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THE
UNCANNY X-MEN
NOS. 194-200, ANNUAL NO. 9, NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL EDITION NO. 1,
BIZARRE ADVENTURES NO. 27 & NIGHTCRAWLER NOS. 1-4

Writers: **Chris Claremont** (Nos. 194-200, *Annual* No. 9; *New Mutants Special Edition* No. 1)
Barry Windsor-Smith (No. 198)
Jo Duffy (*Bizarre Adventures* No. 27)
Bob Layton (*Bizarre Adventures* No. 27)

Writer/Artist: **Dave Cockrum** (*Nightcrawler* Nos. 1-4)

Pencilers/Layouts: **John Romita Jr.** (Nos. 194-197, 199, 200)
Arthur Adams (*Annual* No. 9; *New Mutants Special Edition* No. 1)
Barry Windsor-Smith (No. 198)
Dave Cockrum (*Bizarre Adventures* No. 27)

Inkers/Finishers: Dan Green (Nos. 194-197, 199, 200)
Steve Leialoha (No. 194)
Barry Windsor-Smith (No. 198)
Terry Austin (*New Mutants Special Edition* No. 1)
Al Gordon (*Annual* No. 9)
Mike Mignola (*Annual* No. 9)
Arthur Adams (*Annual* No. 9)
Ricardo Villamonte (*Bizarre Adventures* No. 27)
Josef Rubinstein (*Nightcrawler* No. 4)

Letterers: Tom Orzechowski (Nos. 194-200, *Annual* No. 9; *New Mutants Special Edition* No. 1)
Rick Parker (No. 199; *Bizarre Adventures* No. 27)
Lois Buhalis (*New Mutants Special Edition* No. 1)
Jim Novak (*Nightcrawler* Nos. 1-3)
Diana Albers (*Nightcrawler* No. 4)

Colorists: Glynis Oliver (Nos. 194-197, 199, 200)
Barry Windsor-Smith (No. 198)
Christie Scheele (*New Mutants Special Edition* No. 1)
Petra Scotese (*Annual* No. 9)
Paty Cockrum (*Nightcrawler* Nos. 1-4)

Editors: Ann Nocenti & Dennis O'Neil

Color & Art Reconstruction: Wesley Wong & Sheila Johnson

Special Thanks: Martyn Cox, Nick Elkins, Mike Hansen, Ralph Macchio & Jeph York

X-MEN CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

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INTRODUCTION
BY CHRIS CLAREMONT

Marvel and I—the X-Men and I—have been a part of each other's lives for a half century.

Actually, to be precise, a half century and change. From the moment I first saw Neal Adams' art and read Roy Thomas' scripts, I was hooked. These characters—Scott, Jean, Hank, Warren and Bobby, plus Alex and Lorna (a.k.a. Cyclops, Marvel Girl, Beast, Angel, Iceman, Havok and Polaris)—spoke to me in ways that were fundamentally different from the rest of the Marvel pantheon. Perhaps that was because I'm an immigrant who spent my formative years feeling like the proverbial stranger in a strange land. Like the X-Men, I wanted to fit in. Like them, as a kid, I found that a sometimes daunting challenge.

X-Men was rebooted as a Giant-Size quarterly in 1975, courtesy of writer Len Wein and penciler Dave Cockrum, but as they began work on the second issue, policy changed. The book became a standard-sized bi-monthly, and Len moved on to other titles.

That's where I jumped in as writer on the title. The reboot was a unique opportunity because while the title had been in existence for more than a decade, the decision had been made to recraft the team with new characters for a global audience. I was the luckiest of young writers: In Dave Cockrum the book had not simply a superb visual storyteller but one of the benchmark character designers in comics history. The result: Storm, Nightcrawler, Colossus, Thunderbird—a woman from Africa, a man from Europe, another from what was then the Soviet Union and a Native American. Add to that two members of the original team—Cyclops and, once Dave and I had redesigned her, Phoenix—plus one of Len's creations, Wolverine, and the team was ready to go.

None of us—not management, not the creators—had an inkling *Uncanny X-Men* was about to change the history of modern comics.

In surprisingly short order, *Uncanny* became the best-selling comic in Marvel's line. The series spawned a host of spin-off titles, among them *New Mutants*—a series focusing on kids who came to Charles Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters to learn the safe and proper use of their abilities—and *Nightcrawler*, written and drawn by Dave Cockrum that focused on the life of one of his favorite characters.

This compendium presents a run of stories that reveal not simply the conflicts faced by the characters but the choices made to resolve them. And the consequences of those decisions. We're not talking about a lot of issues here, only seven of the regular run of the title, plus a clutch of special editions. That doesn't seem like much—until you look at the stories themselves.

What mattered most to me throughout these stories is that, whether hero or adversary, all the characters were people. No straw dogs here. The vehicle may be of super hero adventures. The paper might be newsprint, the ink having few subtleties. That may be, but the questions asked, and answers found, hopefully resonate with those faced by readers in the course of their own lives. I know a lot of them did with me.

This in turn brings up another crucial point relating to my approach to both stories and characters, focused primarily on the team's foremost adversary, Magneto. After writing *Uncanny X-Men* for over a decade, I discovered I was in no way interested in giving up the title—I was having *far* too much fun. I became increasingly fascinated by the characters' motivations. I wanted to know what made them tick. None of us are simple; that's what makes people so fascinating and infuriating. The writer's responsibility is to bring that complexity to life for the readers and see where it leads.

This was especially true with Magneto. In his earliest appearances, Magneto was the ultimate bad guy, as racist as they come, holding firm to his primal belief that mutants were to become the dominant species on this planet. His goal in life was to bring about the fulfillment of that reality. Non-mutants, to him, were little more than cattle. The X-Men, by standing against him as humanity's defenders, were traitors to their own kind. Simple, basic, traditional comic book villain, the X-Men's equivalent to Dr. Doom for the Fantastic Four, or the Green Goblin for Spider-Man.

Dave and I wanted something more.

Magneto wasn't an active character when the series was rebooted with *Giant-Size* #1 and issue #94. But historically in *X-Men*, Magneto was their greatest antagonist . Dave and I decided right from the start that we had to bring him back and find a new path for him. The question was, how? I was determined as well to provide him with a proper backstory, to better define both the man and his actions.

It appeared to me that a character as extreme as Magneto had to be anchored to a devastating history. His rage and violence had to be rooted in a believable historical context. As a character, he must remain grounded in one core historical moment, the *Shoah*. In university, I had spent time in Israel working on a kibbutz, many of whose members were survivors of the Holocaust. This became the defining experiences of my life, which I drew on to define Magneto's character. His childhood in the death camps—what he saw, what he was forced to do—is the foundation of his being. In terms of character, grounded in this specific historical moment, his origin makes him unique. It cannot be denied.

What you get to read in these stories, culminating in his trial for crimes against humanity before the World Court, is the culmination of the journey that began with his "rebirth" in *Uncanny X-Men*. There, he was a mutant consumed by rage. But as we peel away the hard exterior shell, we find first Magneto the man, then Eric, the traumatized child. We can understand him, be empathetic with him, and join him on his path.

To me, this is what *X-Men* has always been about: the emotional journey of its characters. All have depth; all have nuance. Despite their agency, villains might be decent people, just as heroes can behave regrettably. If you want to find out why, if you want the answer to that question, start reading.

Brooklyn, NY
2019

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THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
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TM
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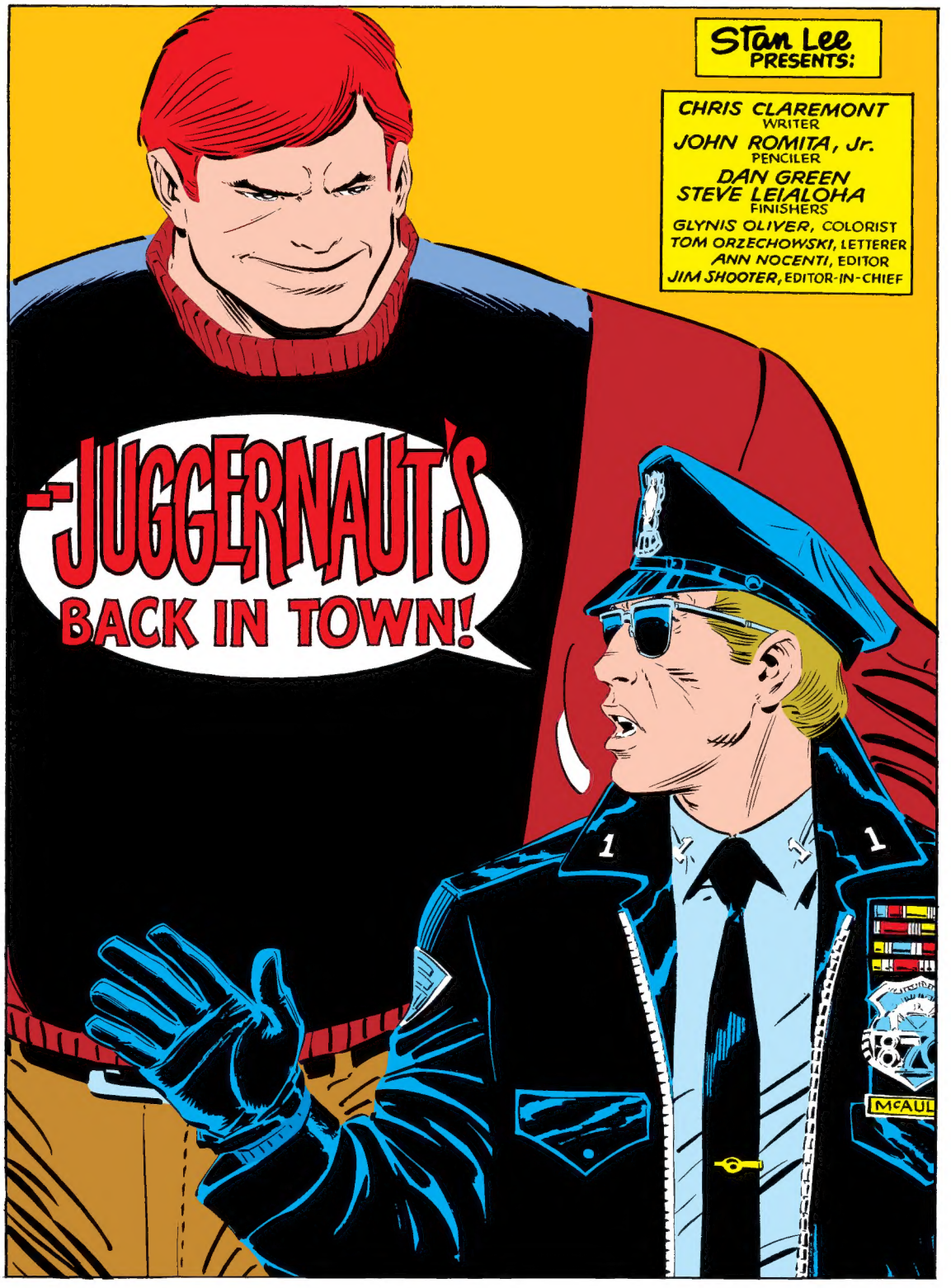
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ROMITA JR

NEW YORK CITY.
WEO WEO WEO WEO WEO
POLICE
BEEPB-BEEP
BRAAANK
57A
THIS IS A POLICE EMERGENCY, PLEASE CLEAR THE STREETS!
THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM!
TAKE IT EASY, PEOPLE, STAY COOL.
POLICE
EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.
HEY, OFFICER, WHAT'S'A TROUBLE?
AIN'T YOU HEARD, FELLA--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JOHN ROMITA, Jr.
PENCILER
DAN GREEN
STEVE LEIALOHA
FINISHERS
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TOM ORZECHOWSKI, LETTERER
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JUGGERNAUT'S
BACK IN TOWN!
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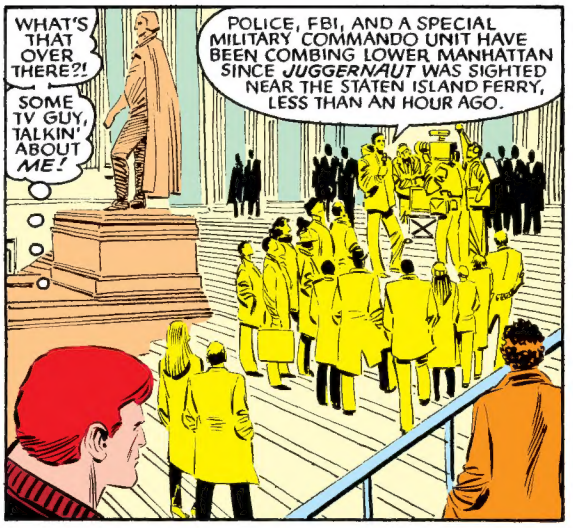
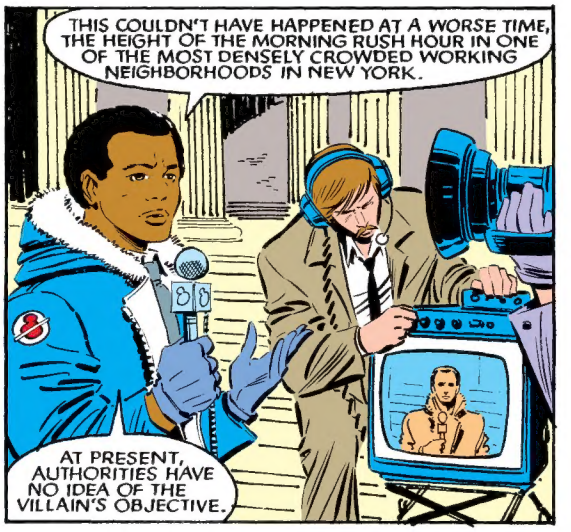
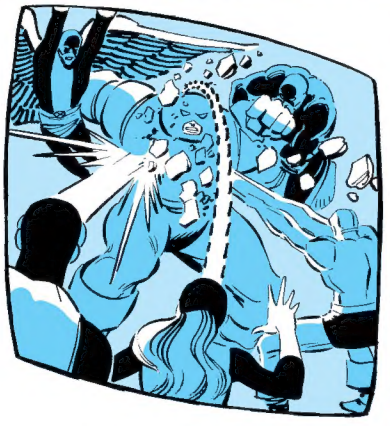

WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?!
SOME TV GUY, TALKIN' ABOUT ME!
POLICE, FBI, AND A SPECIAL MILITARY COMMANDO UNIT HAVE BEEN COMBING LOWER MANHATTAN SINCE JUGGERNAUT WAS SIGHTED NEAR THE STATEN ISLAND FERRY, LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO.

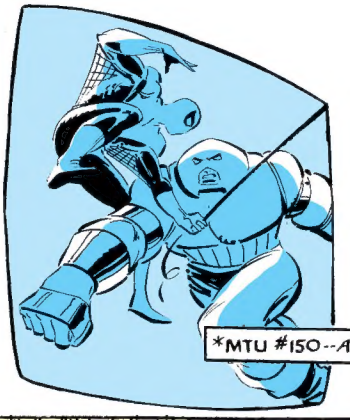

THIS COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED AT A WORSE TIME, THE HEIGHT OF THE MORNING RUSH HOUR IN ONE OF THE MOST DENSELY CROWDED WORKING NEIGHBORHOODS IN NEW YORK.
AT PRESENT, AUTHORITIES HAVE NO IDEA OF THE VILLAIN'S OBJECTIVE.



"JUGGERNAUT'S TRUE IDENTITY, AND THE ORIGIN OF HIS AWESOME POWER, ARE SHROUDED IN MYSTERY. HE IS, QUITE LITERALLY, ALL HIS NAME IMPLIES-- A HUMAN JUGGERNAUT, AS UNSTOPPABLE AS HE IS IMPERVIOUS TO HARM.

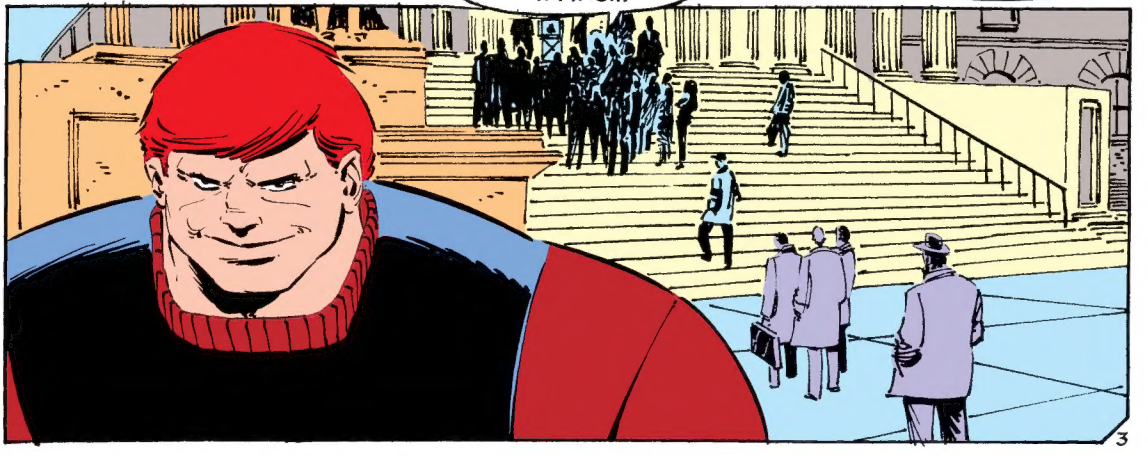
"IN HIS CAREER, MANY SO-CALLED SUPER HEROES HAVE TRIED TO CAPTURE HIM, WITHOUT SUCCESS. HE CLASHED MOST OFTEN WITH THE MUTANT *X-MEN*, AND THE RAMPAGING HULK.

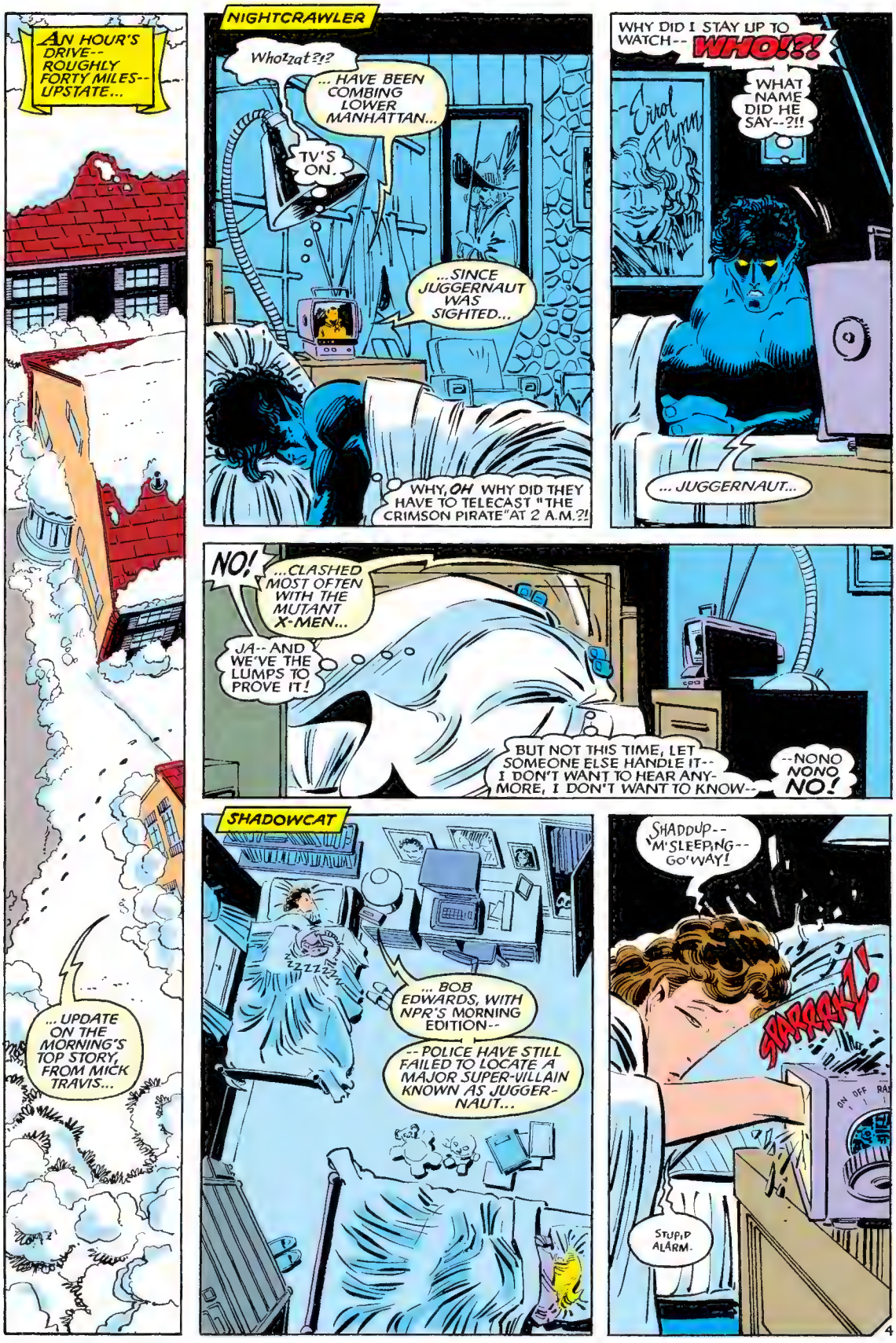
"MOST RECENTLY-- IN MIDTOWN MANHATTAN-- HE TANGLED WITH THOSE SELFSAME X-MEN AND THE BIG APPLE'S OWN INCREDIBLE *SPIDER-MAN*.*

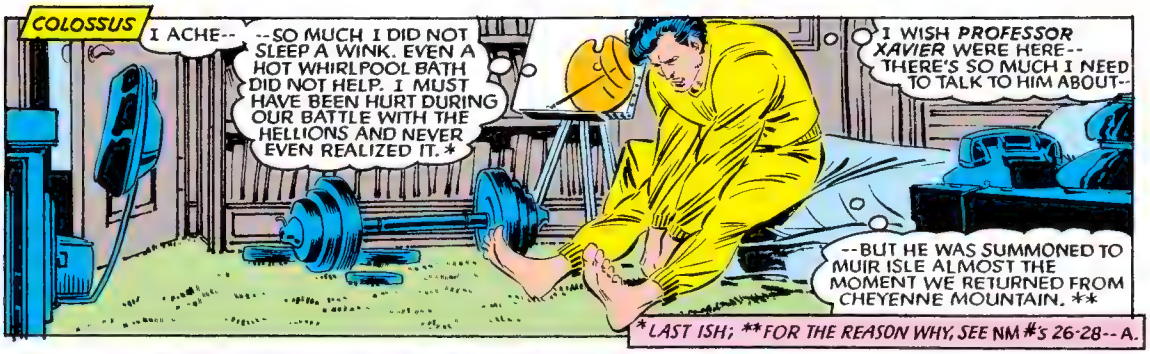


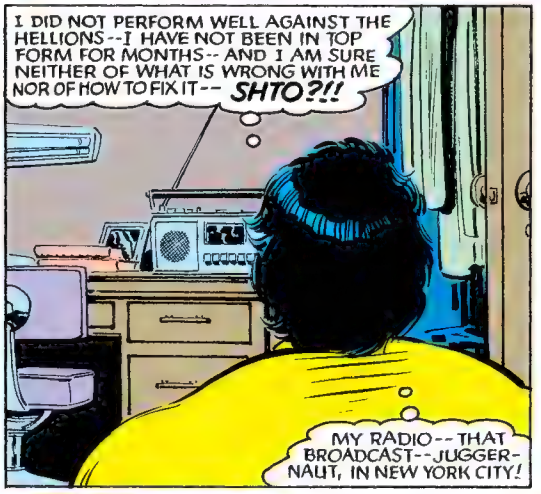
"IT'S INTERESTING TO NOTE, FOR THE RECORD, THAT WHILE BOTH X-MEN AND SPIDER-MAN ARE OFTEN DENOUNCED AS VILLAINS THEMSELVES AND DANGEROUS ENEMIES OF SOCIETY BY ELEMENTS OF BOTH GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA, THEY ALWAYS SEEM MORE THAN READY TO PROTECT A PUBLIC THAT DISTRUSTS-- EVEN FEARS-- THEM, OFTEN AT RISK TO THEIR VERY LIVES."

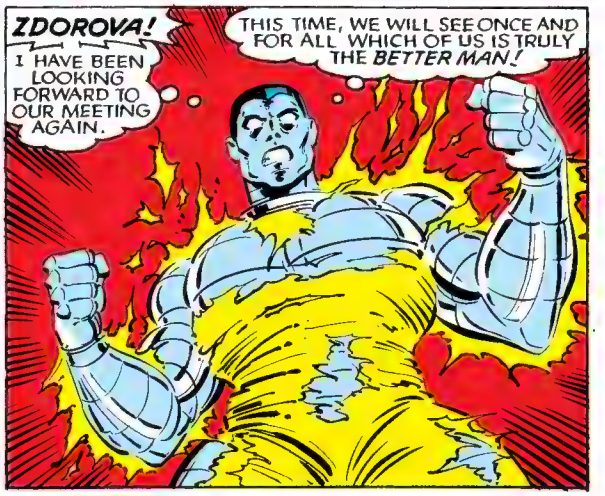
LET'S HOPE TODAY ISN'T THE DAY THEY DECIDE WE'RE NO LONGER WORTH THE EFFORT. REPORTING FROM WALL STREET, THIS IS *MICK TRAVIS*...

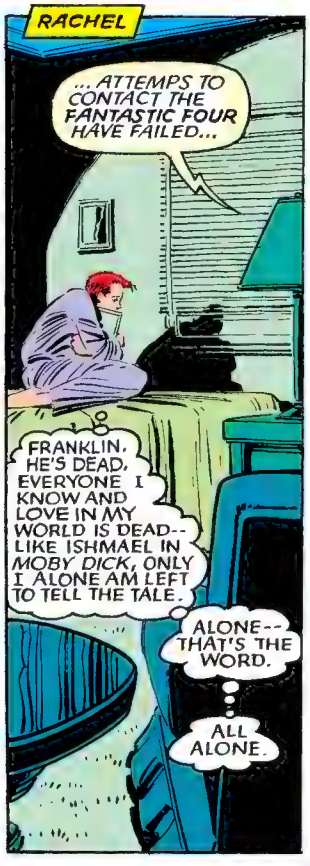


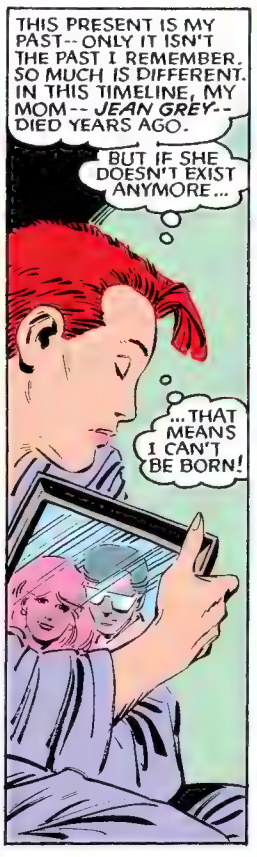

AN HOUR'S DRIVE-- ROUGHLY FORTY MILES-- UPSTATE...
NIGHTCRAWLER
Whozzat?!?
... HAVE BEEN COMBING LOWER MANHATTAN...
TV'S ON.
...SINCE JUGGERNAUT WAS SIGHTED...
WHY, OH WHY DID THEY HAVE TO TELECAST "THE CRIMSON PIRATE" AT 2 A.M.?!
WHY DID I STAY UP TO WATCH-- WHO!?!
WHAT NAME DID HE SAY--?!!
Errol Flynn
... JUGGERNAUT...
NO!
...CLASHED MOST OFTEN WITH THE MUTANT X-MEN...
JA-- AND WE'VE THE LUMPS TO PROVE IT!
BUT NOT THIS TIME, LET SOMEONE ELSE HANDLE IT-- I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY-MORE, I DON'T WANT TO KNOW--
--NONO NONO NO!
SHADOWCAT
... BOB EDWARDS, WITH NPR'S MORNING EDITION--
-- POLICE HAVE STILL FAILED TO LOCATE A MAJOR SUPER-VILLAIN KNOWN AS JUGGER-NAUT...
... UPDATE ON THE MORNING'S TOP STORY, FROM MICK TRAVIS...
SHADDUP-- M'SLEEPING-- GO'WAY!
SPARRRK!
STUPID ALARM.

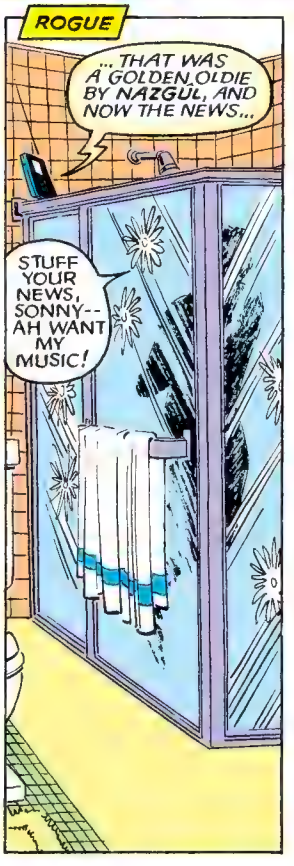

COLOSSUS
I ACHE--
--SO MUCH I DID NOT SLEEP A WINK. EVEN A HOT WHIRLPOOL BATH DID NOT HELP. I MUST HAVE BEEN HURT DURING OUR BATTLE WITH THE HELLIONS AND NEVER EVEN REALIZED IT. *
I WISH PROFESSOR XAVIER WERE HERE-- THERE'S SO MUCH I NEED TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT--
--BUT HE WAS SUMMONED TO MUIR ISLE ALMOST THE MOMENT WE RETURNED FROM CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN. **
* LAST ISH; ** FOR THE REASON WHY, SEE NM #'s 26-28-- A.

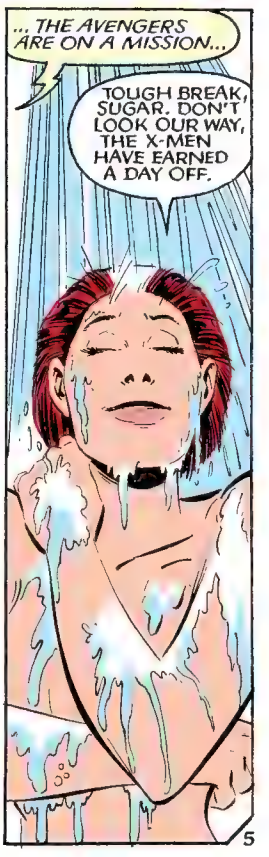

I DID NOT PERFORM WELL AGAINST THE HELLIONS--I HAVE NOT BEEN IN TOP FORM FOR MONTHS-- AND I AM SURE NEITHER OF WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME NOR OF HOW TO FIX IT-- SHTO?!!
MY RADIO-- THAT BROADCAST-- JUGGERNAUT, IN NEW YORK CITY!

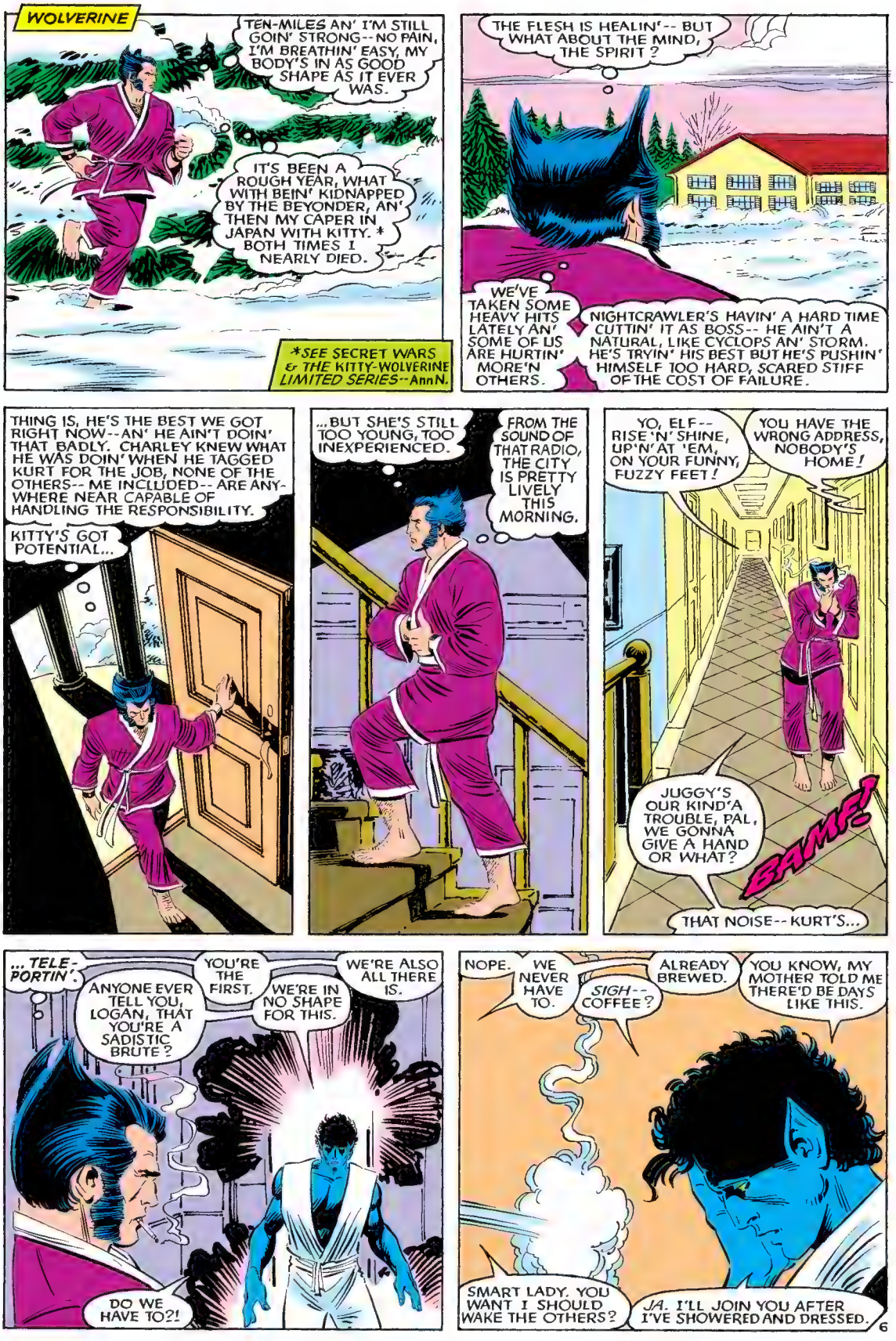

ZDOROVA!
I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR MEETING AGAIN.
THIS TIME, WE WILL SEE ONCE AND FOR ALL WHICH OF US IS TRULY THE BETTER MAN!

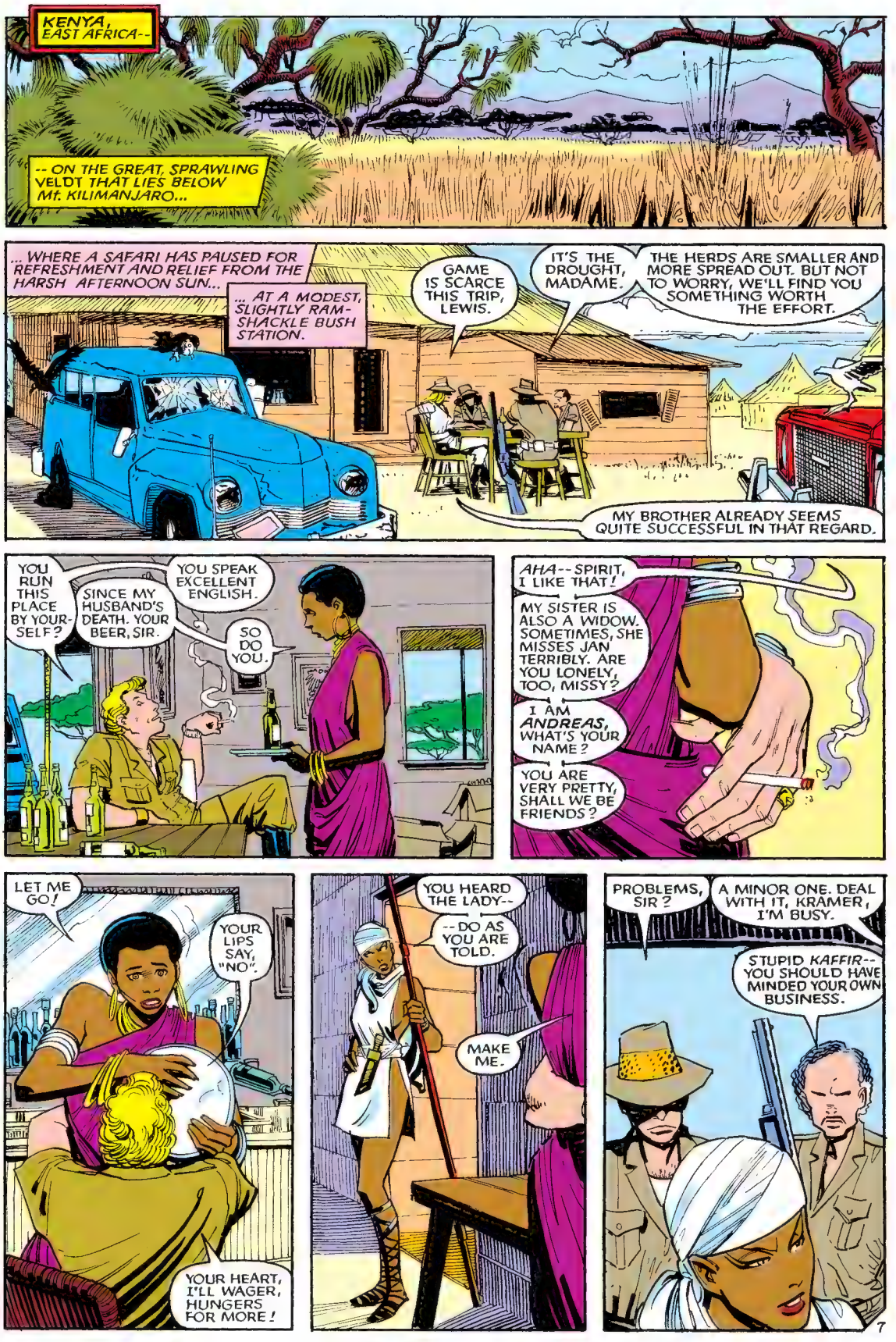

RACHEL
...ATTEMPS TO CONTACT THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE FAILED...
FRANKLIN, HE'S DEAD, EVERYONE I KNOW AND LOVE IN MY WORLD IS DEAD-- LIKE ISHMAEL IN MOBY DICK, ONLY I ALONE AM LEFT TO TELL THE TALE.
ALONE-- THAT'S THE WORD.
ALL ALONE.


THIS PRESENT IS MY PAST-- ONLY IT ISN'T THE PAST I REMEMBER. SO MUCH IS DIFFERENT. IN THIS TIMELINE, MY MOM-- JEAN GREY-- DIED YEARS AGO.
BUT IF SHE DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE...
...THAT MEANS I CAN'T BE BORN!

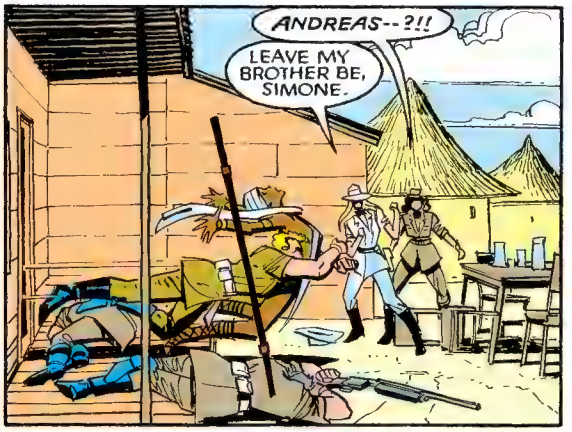

ROGUE
...THAT WAS A GOLDEN OLDIE BY NAZGUL, AND NOW THE NEWS...
STUFF YOUR NEWS, SONNY-- AH WANT MY MUSIC!

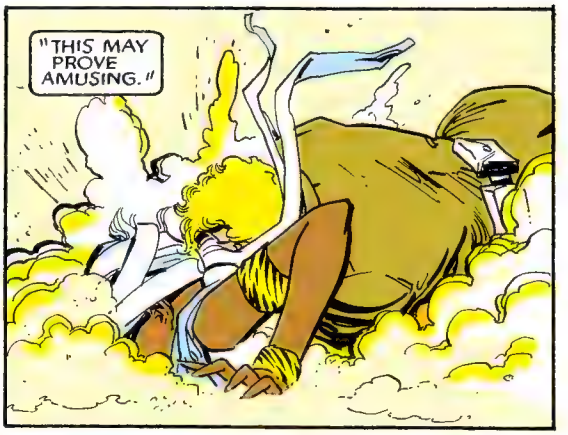

...THE AVENGERS ARE ON A MISSION...
TOUGH BREAK, SUGAR. DON'T LOOK OUR WAY, THE X-MEN HAVE EARNED A DAY OFF.

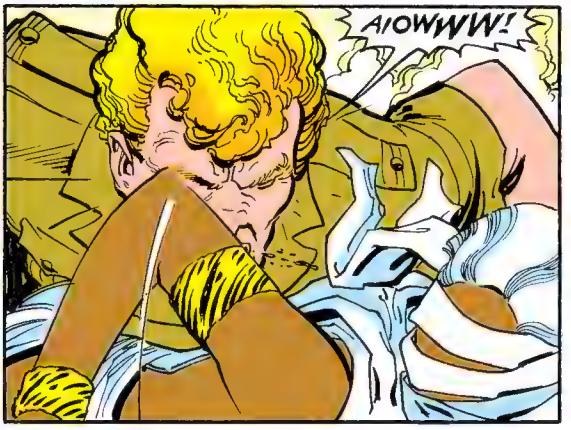

WOLVERINE
TEN-MILES AN' I'M STILL GOIN' STRONG--NO PAIN, I'M BREATHIN' EASY, MY BODY'S IN AS GOOD SHAPE AS IT EVER WAS.
IT'S BEEN A ROUGH YEAR, WHAT WITH BEIN' KIDNAPPED BY THE BEYONDER, AN' THEN MY CAPER IN JAPAN WITH KITTY. * BOTH TIMES I NEARLY DIED.
*SEE SECRET WARS & THE KITTY-WOLVERINE LIMITED SERIES--AnnN.
THE FLESH IS HEALIN'-- BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MIND, THE SPIRIT?
WE'VE TAKEN SOME HEAVY HITS LATELY AN' SOME OF US ARE HURTIN' MORE'N OTHERS.
NIGHTCRAWLER'S HAVIN' A HARD TIME CUTTIN' IT AS BOSS-- HE AIN'T A NATURAL, LIKE CYCLOPS AN' STORM. HE'S TRYIN' HIS BEST BUT HE'S PUSHIN' HIMSELF TOO HARD, SCARED STIFF OF THE COST OF FAILURE.
THING IS, HE'S THE BEST WE GOT RIGHT NOW--AN' HE AIN'T DOIN' THAT BADLY. CHARLEY KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOIN' WHEN HE TAGGED KURT FOR THE JOB, NONE OF THE OTHERS-- ME INCLUDED-- ARE ANYWHERE NEAR CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE RESPONSIBILITY.
KITTY'S GOT POTENTIAL...
...BUT SHE'S STILL TOO YOUNG, TOO INEXPERIENCED.
FROM THE SOUND OF THAT RADIO, THE CITY IS PRETTY LIVELY THIS MORNING.
YO, ELF-- RISE 'N' SHINE, UP 'N' AT 'EM, ON YOUR FUNNY, FUZZY FEET!
YOU HAVE THE WRONG ADDRESS, NOBODY'S HOME!
JUGGY'S OUR KIND'A TROUBLE, PAL, WE GONNA GIVE A HAND OR WHAT?
BAM!
THAT NOISE-- KURT'S...
...TELE-PORTIN'.
ANYONE EVER TELL YOU, LOGAN, THAT YOU'RE A SADISTIC BRUTE?
YOU'RE THE FIRST.
WE'RE IN NO SHAPE FOR THIS.
WE'RE ALSO ALL THERE IS.
DO WE HAVE TO?!
NOPE.
WE NEVER HAVE TO.
SIGH-- COFFEE?
ALREADY BREWED.
YOU KNOW, MY MOTHER TOLD ME THERE'D BE DAYS LIKE THIS.
SMART LADY. YOU WANT I SHOULD WAKE THE OTHERS?
JA. I'LL JOIN YOU AFTER I'VE SHOWERED AND DRESSED.

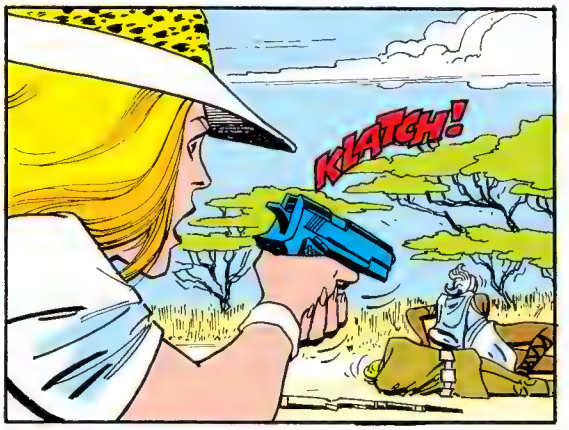

KENYA, EAST AFRICA--
-- ON THE GREAT, SPRAWLING VELDT THAT LIES BELOW Mt. KILIMANJARO...
... WHERE A SAFARI HAS PAUSED FOR REFRESHMENT AND RELIEF FROM THE HARSH AFTERNOON SUN...
... AT A MODEST, SLIGHTLY RAM-SHACKLE BUSH STATION.
GAME IS SCARCE THIS TRIP, LEWIS.
IT'S THE DROUGHT, MADAME.
THE HERDS ARE SMALLER AND MORE SPREAD OUT. BUT NOT TO WORRY, WE'LL FIND YOU SOMETHING WORTH THE EFFORT.
MY BROTHER ALREADY SEEMS QUITE SUCCESSFUL IN THAT REGARD.
YOU RUN THIS PLACE BY YOURSELF?
SINCE MY HUSBAND'S DEATH. YOUR BEER, SIR.
YOU SPEAK EXCELLENT ENGLISH.
SO DO YOU.
AHA-- SPIRIT, I LIKE THAT!
MY SISTER IS ALSO A WIDOW. SOMETIMES, SHE MISSES JAN TERRIBLY. ARE YOU LONELY, TOO, MISSY?
I AM ANDREAS, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
YOU ARE VERY PRETTY, SHALL WE BE FRIENDS?
LET ME GO!
YOUR LIPS SAY, "NO".
YOUR HEART, I'LL WAGER, HUNGERS FOR MORE!
YOU HEARD THE LADY--
--DO AS YOU ARE TOLD.
MAKE ME.
PROBLEMS, SIR?
A MINOR ONE. DEAL WITH IT, KRAMER, I'M BUSY.
STUPID KAFFIR-- YOU SHOULD HAVE MINDED YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

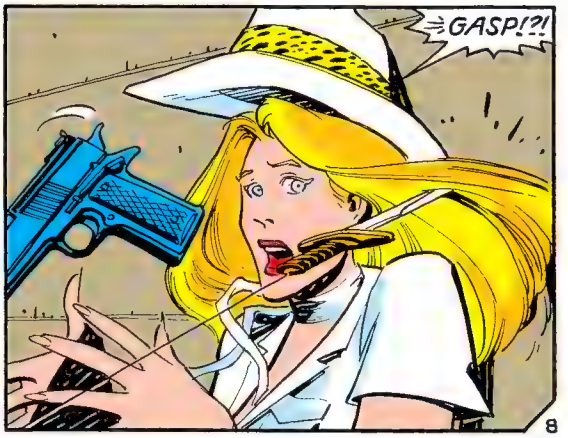
AND YOU GENTLEMEN...
... SHOULD HAVE HEEDED MY WARNING.

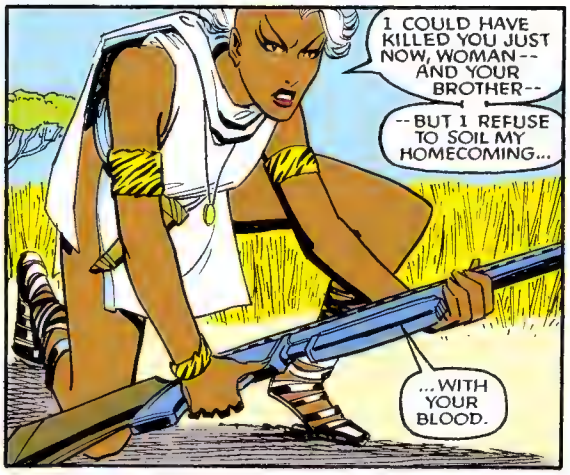

ANDREAS--?!!
LEAVE MY BROTHER BE, SIMONE.

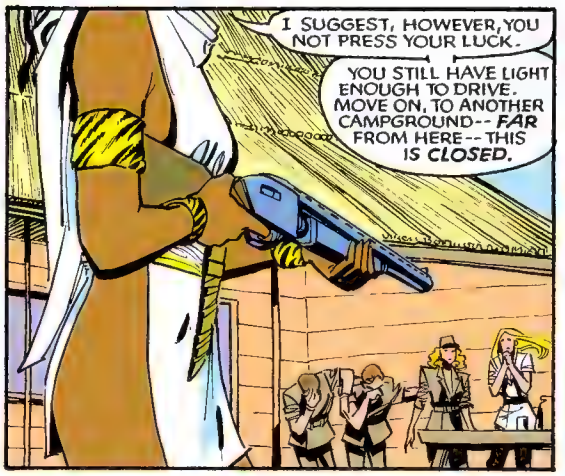

"THIS MAY PROVE AMUSING."


AIOWWW!


KLATCH!


GASP!?!

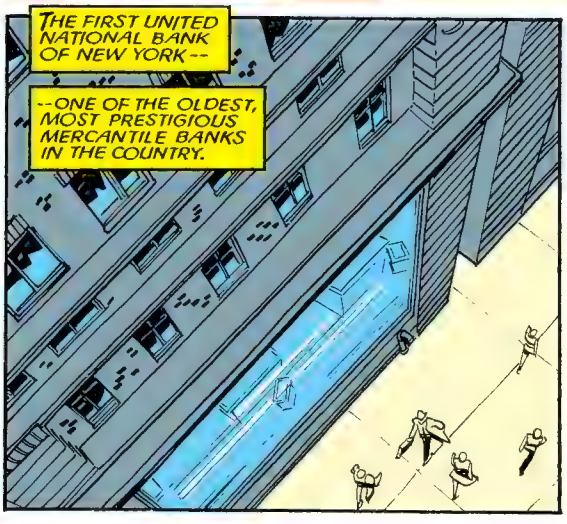

I COULD HAVE KILLED YOU JUST NOW, WOMAN-- AND YOUR BROTHER--
--BUT I REFUSE TO SOIL MY HOMECOMING...
...WITH YOUR BLOOD.

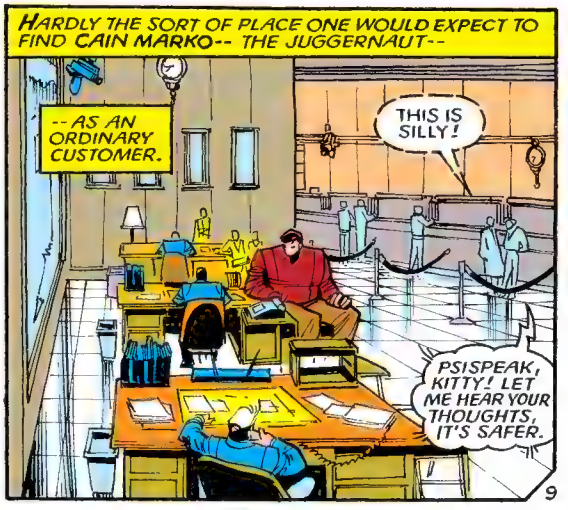

I SUGGEST, HOWEVER, YOU NOT PRESS YOUR LUCK.
YOU STILL HAVE LIGHT ENOUGH TO DRIVE. MOVE ON, TO ANOTHER CAMPGROUND-- *FAR* FROM HERE-- THIS IS *CLOSED.*

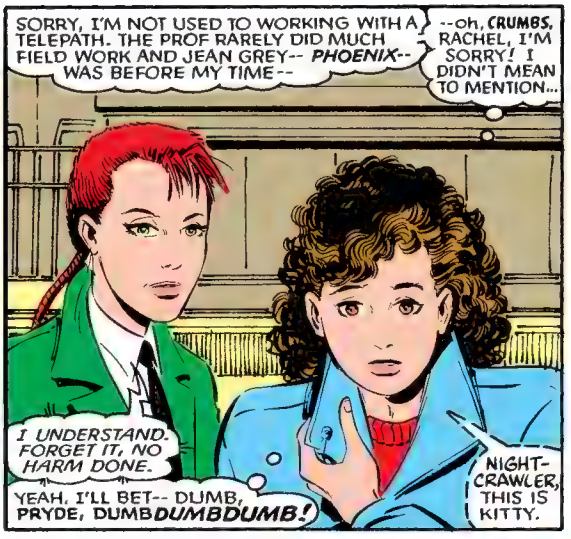
THEY ARE GONE. BUT THEY MAY BE BACK, YOU HAD BEST BE READY.
I WILL-- *YOU?!?*
CAN IT BE--
--HAVE OUR PRAYERS AT LAST BEEN ANSWERED?!!

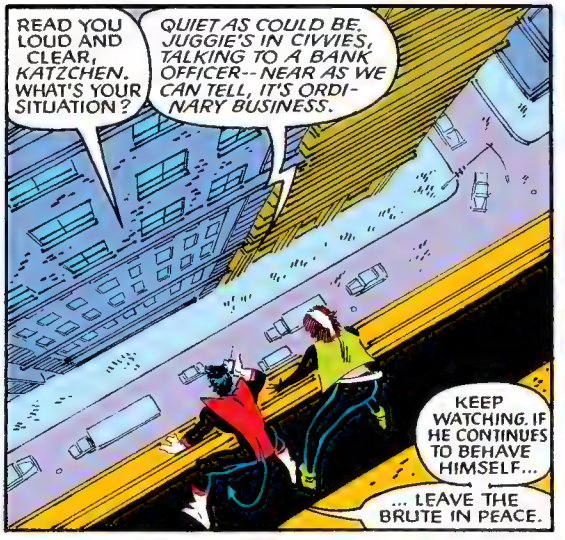
YOU ARE THE *WIND-RIDER,* THE *GODDESS--*
--ORORO!
YOU HAVE *RETURNED!!*

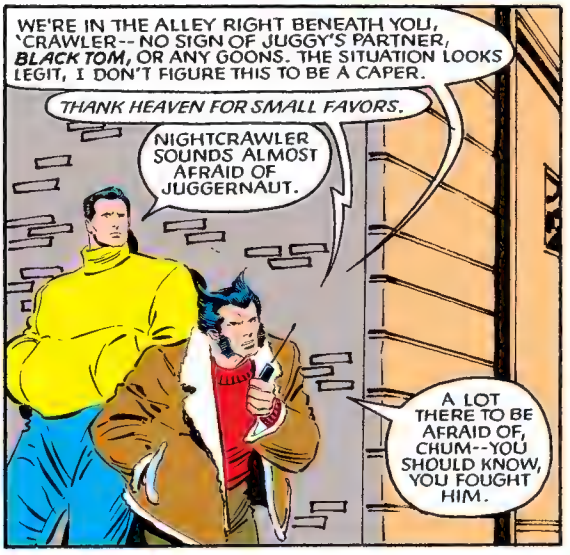
ONCE, I WAS, CHILD-- THANKS TO MY MUTANT POWERS, THE ELEMENTS WERE MINE TO COMMAND. BUT THOSE GIFTS-- THE *STORM* WHO LED THE X-MEN-- ARE NO MORE.
I AM NEITHER GODDESS NOR MUTANT, BUT MERELY *HUMAN*-- A WOMAN...
...SEARCHING HER PAST TO FIND HER FUTURE.


THE FIRST UNITED NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK--
--ONE OF THE OLDEST, MOST PRESTIGIOUS MERCANTILE BANKS IN THE COUNTRY.

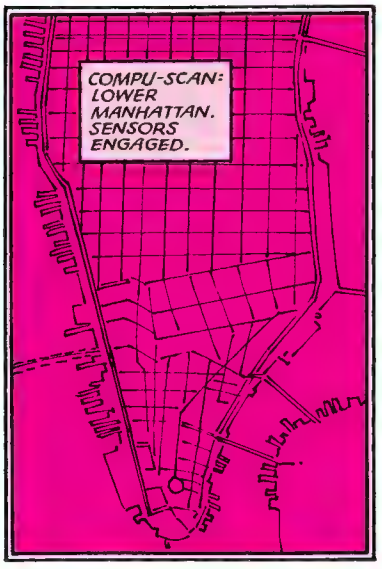

HARDLY THE SORT OF PLACE ONE WOULD EXPECT TO FIND CAIN MARKO-- THE JUGGERNAUT--
--AS AN ORDINARY CUSTOMER.
THIS IS SILLY!
PSISPEAK, KITTY! LET ME HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS, IT'S SAFER.

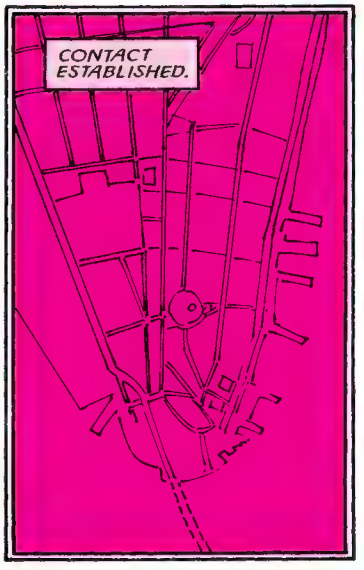

SORRY, I'M NOT USED TO WORKING WITH A TELEPATH. THE PROF RARELY DID MUCH FIELD WORK AND JEAN GREY-- PHOENIX-- WAS BEFORE MY TIME--
--oh, CRUMBS, RACHEL, I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO MENTION...
I UNDERSTAND. FORGET IT, NO HARM DONE.
YEAH, I'LL BET-- DUMB, PRYDE, DUMBDUMBDUMB!
NIGHT-CRAWLER, THIS IS KITTY.


READ YOU LOUD AND CLEAR, KATZCHEN. WHAT'S YOUR SITUATION?
QUIET AS COULD BE. JUGGIE'S IN CIVVIES, TALKING TO A BANK OFFICER-- NEAR AS WE CAN TELL, IT'S ORDI-NARY BUSINESS.
KEEP WATCHING. IF HE CONTINUES TO BEHAVE HIMSELF...
... LEAVE THE BRUTE IN PEACE.

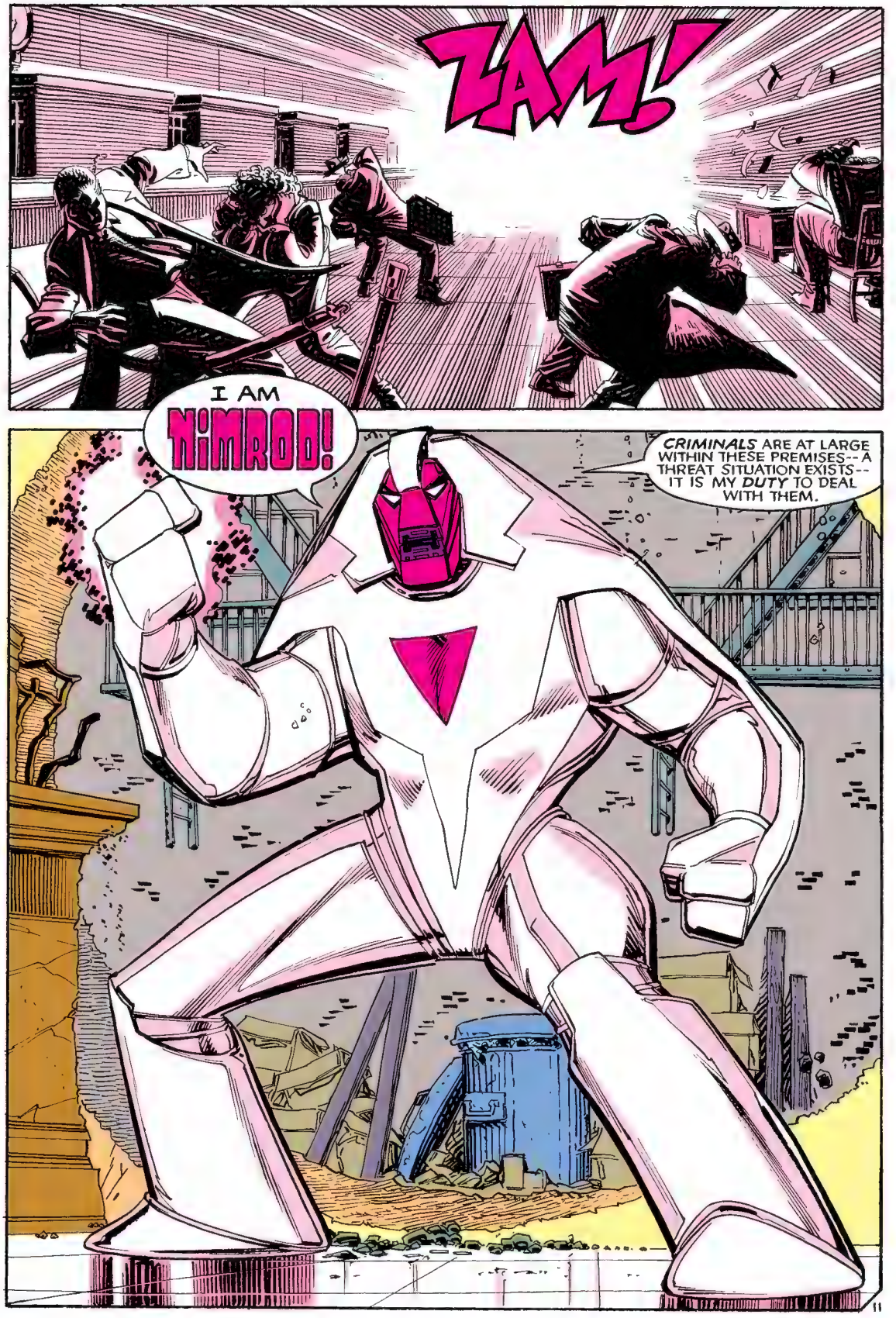

WE'RE IN THE ALLEY RIGHT BENEATH YOU, 'CRAWLER-- NO SIGN OF JUGGY'S PARTNER, BLACK TOM, OR ANY GOONS. THE SITUATION LOOKS LEGIT, I DON'T FIGURE THIS TO BE A CAPER.
THANK HEAVEN FOR SMALL FAVORS.
NIGHTCRAWLER SOUNDS ALMOST AFRAID OF JUGGERNAUT.
A LOT THERE TO BE AFRAID OF, CHUM--YOU SHOULD KNOW, YOU FOUGHT HIM.

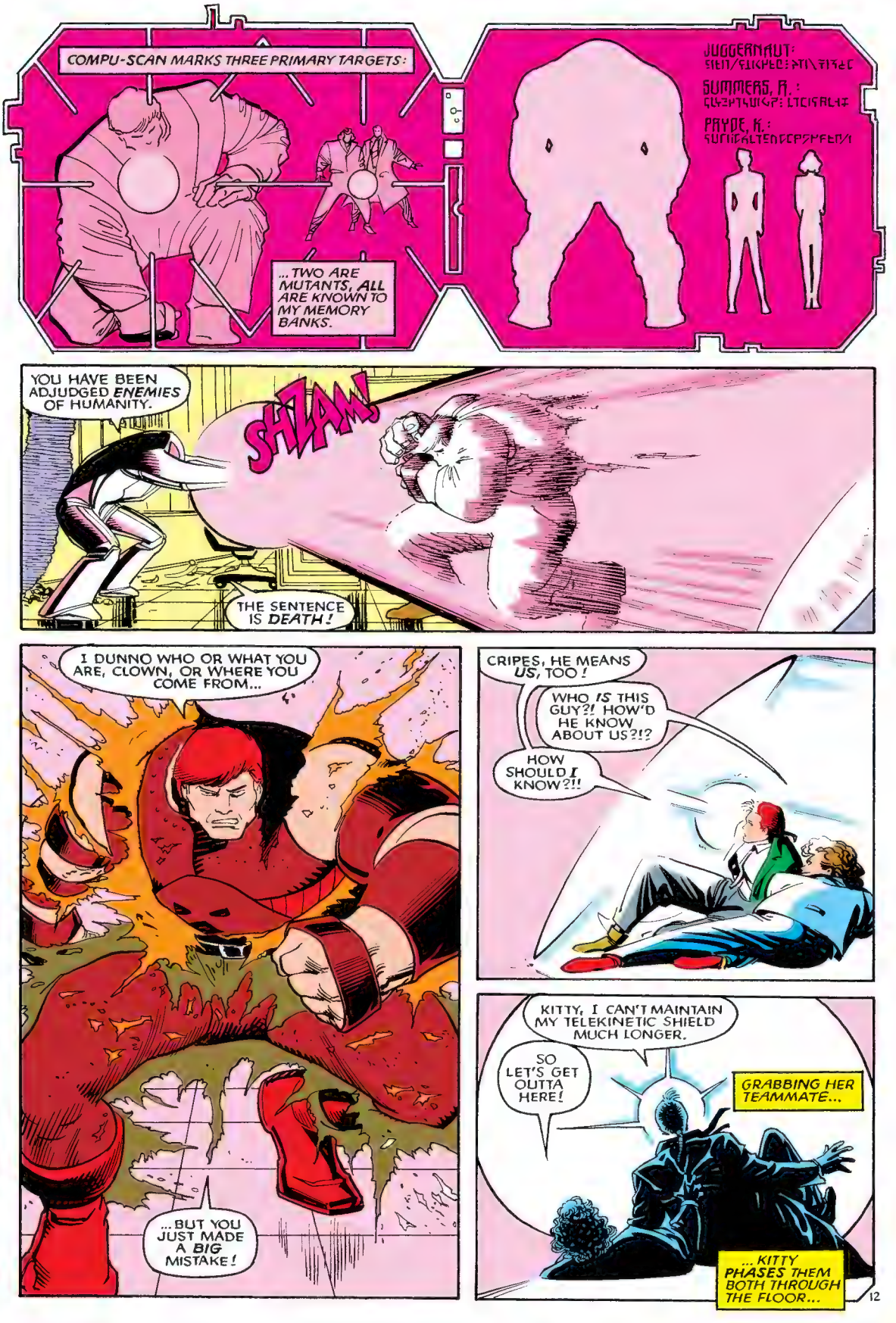
AND WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO DO SO AGAIN.
PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE, PETEY-- PRACTICE IT.
ONLY A FOOL PICKS A SCRAP WHEN THERE'S NO NEED. I'M GLAD TO SEE KURT HAS MORE SMARTS THAN THAT.
ME, I HOPE TODAY ENDS AS QUIET AN' UN-EVENTFULLY AS IT BEGAN.

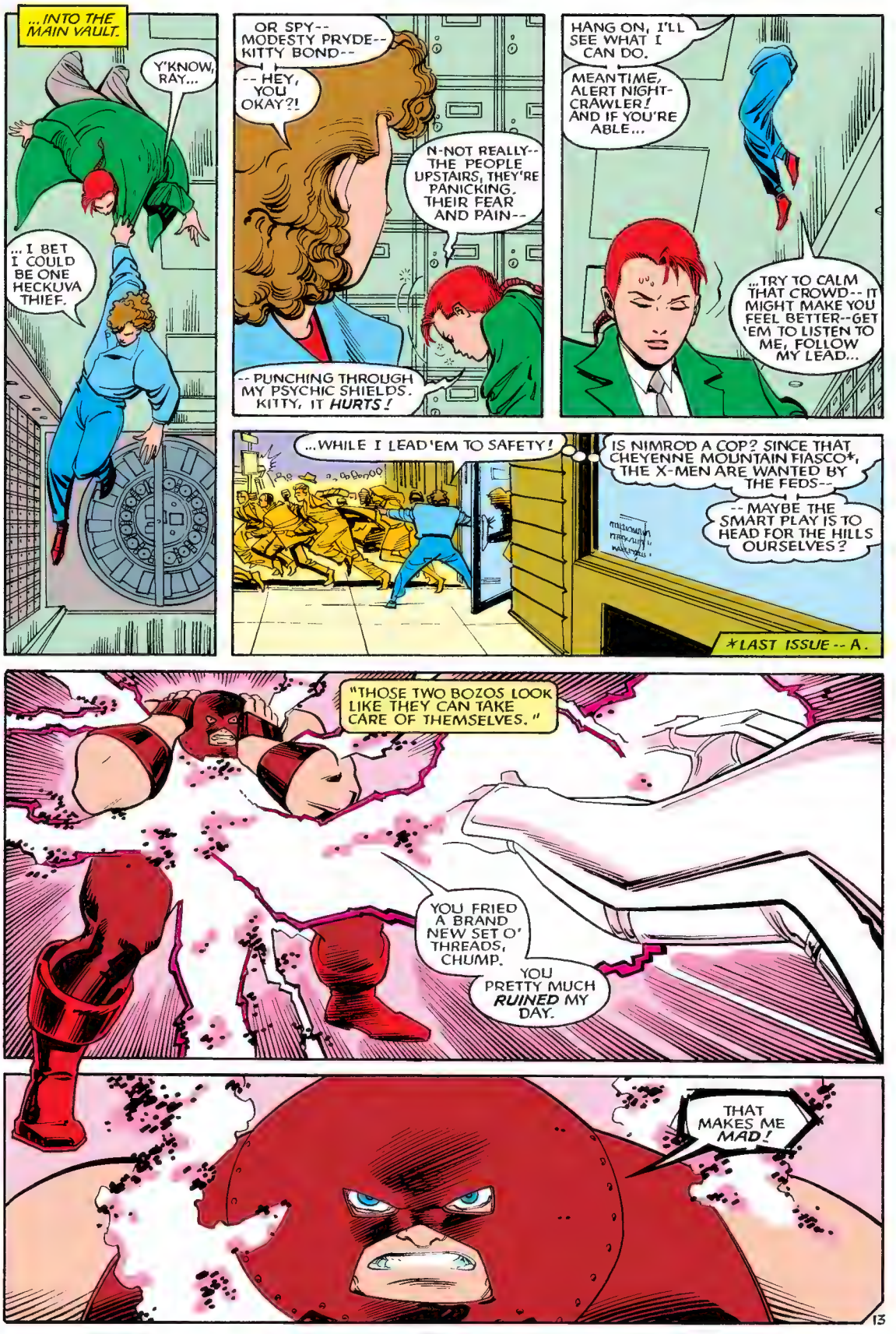

COMPU-SCAN: LOWER MANHATTAN. SENSORS ENGAGED.

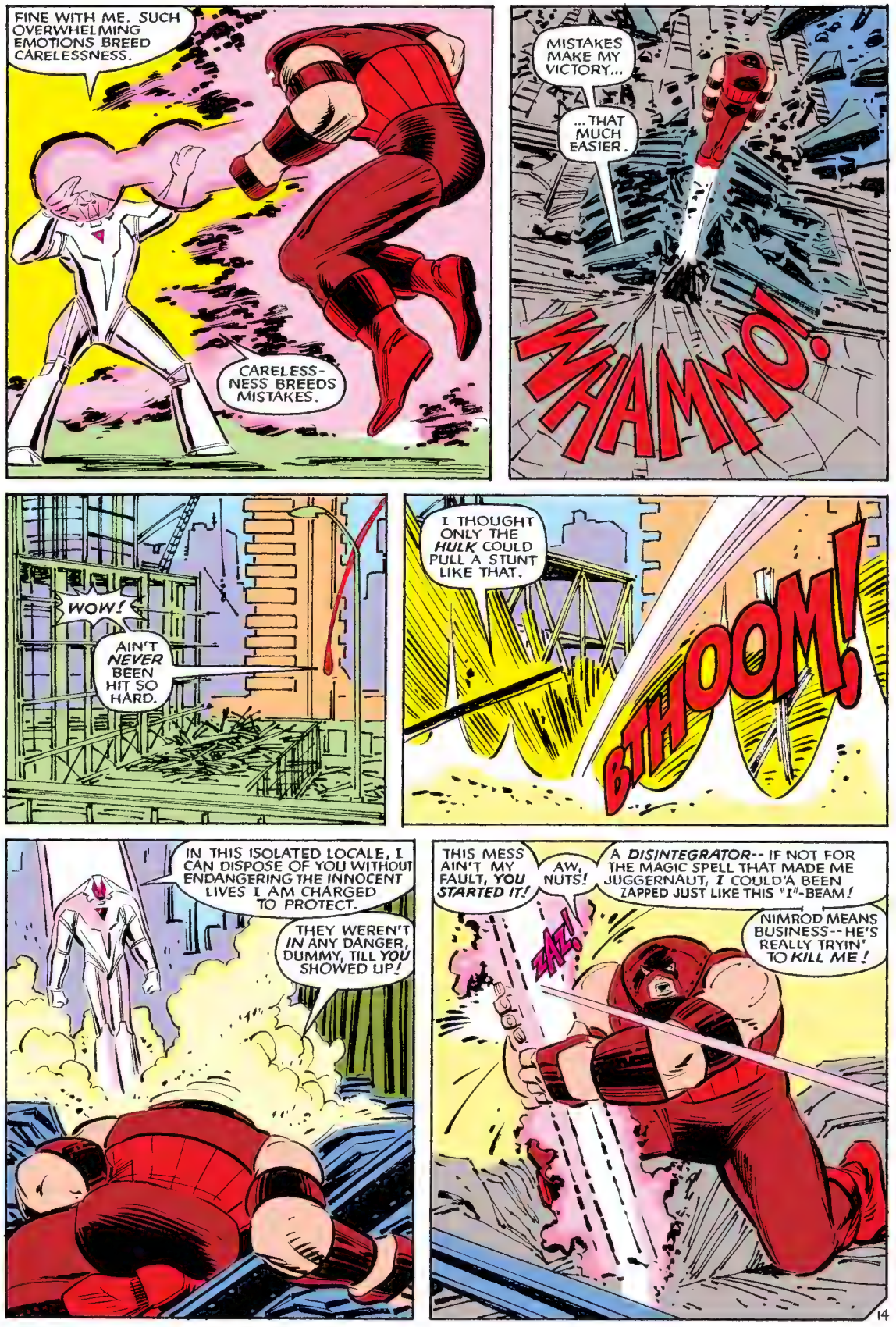

CONTACT ESTABLISHED.

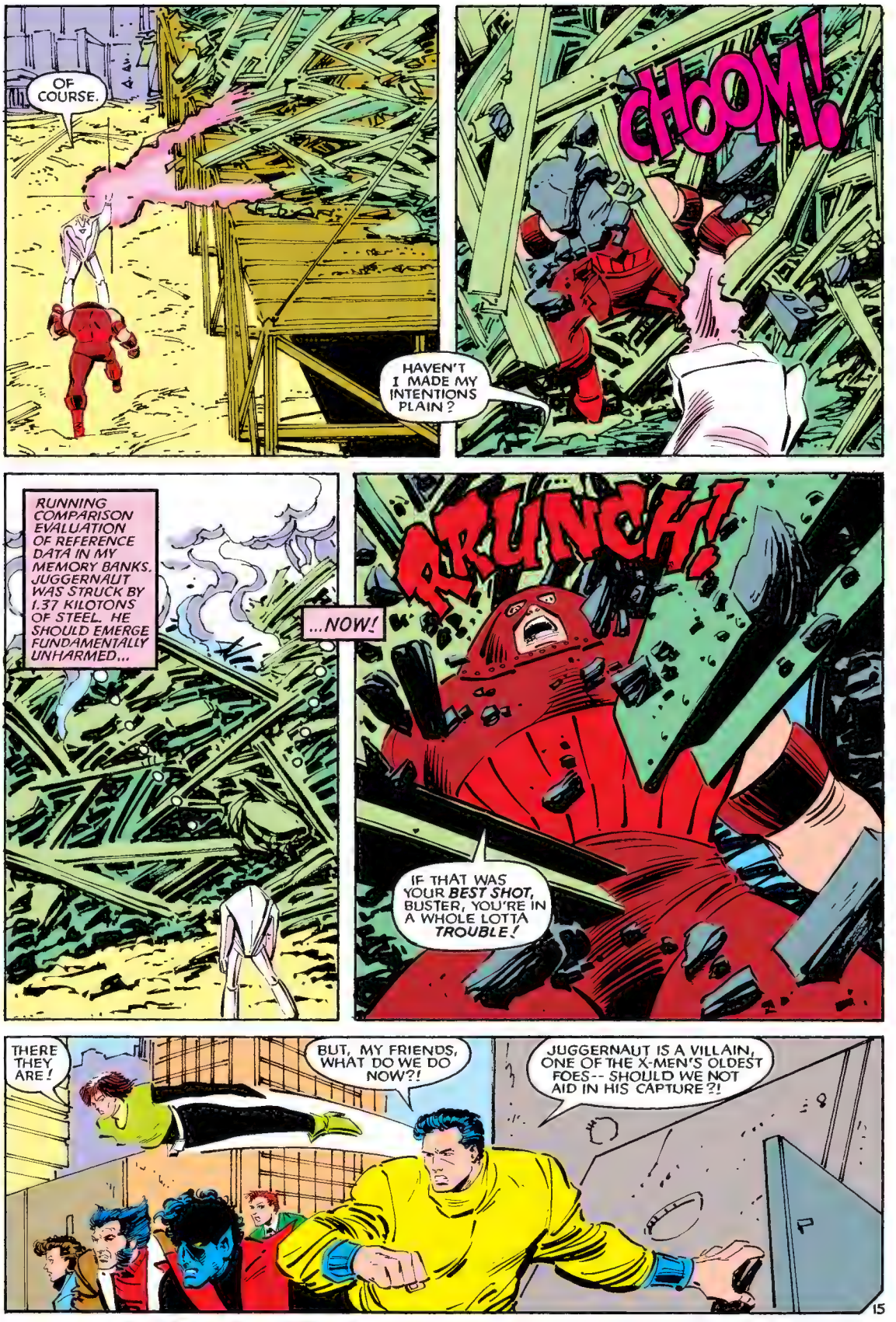
LOCATION CONFIRMED.
SHIFTING TO FULL COMBAT MODE, INITIATING CON-FRONTATION.

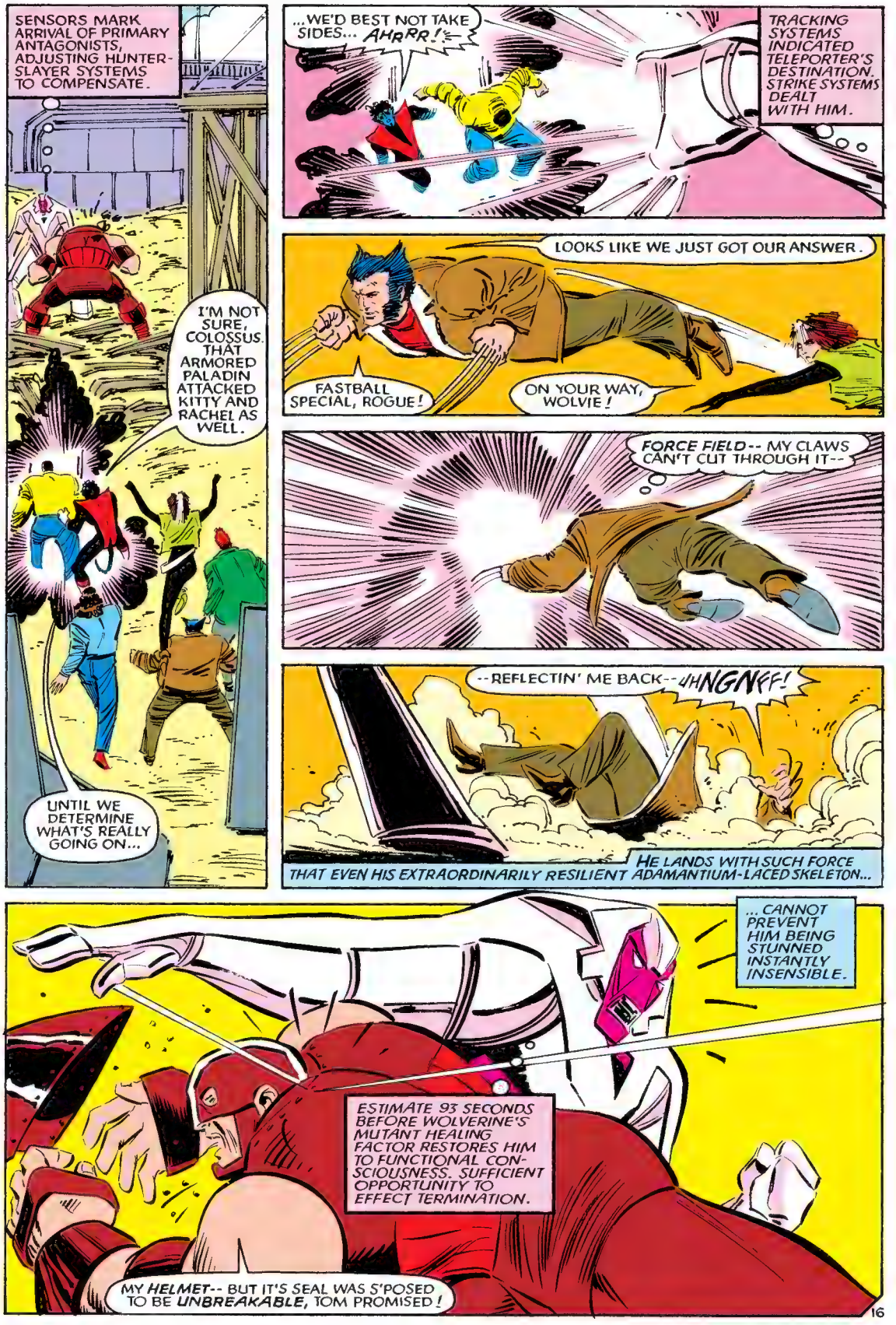

ZAM!
I AM NIMROD!
CRIMINALS ARE AT LARGE WITHIN THESE PREMISES--A THREAT SITUATION EXISTS--IT IS MY DUTY TO DEAL WITH THEM.

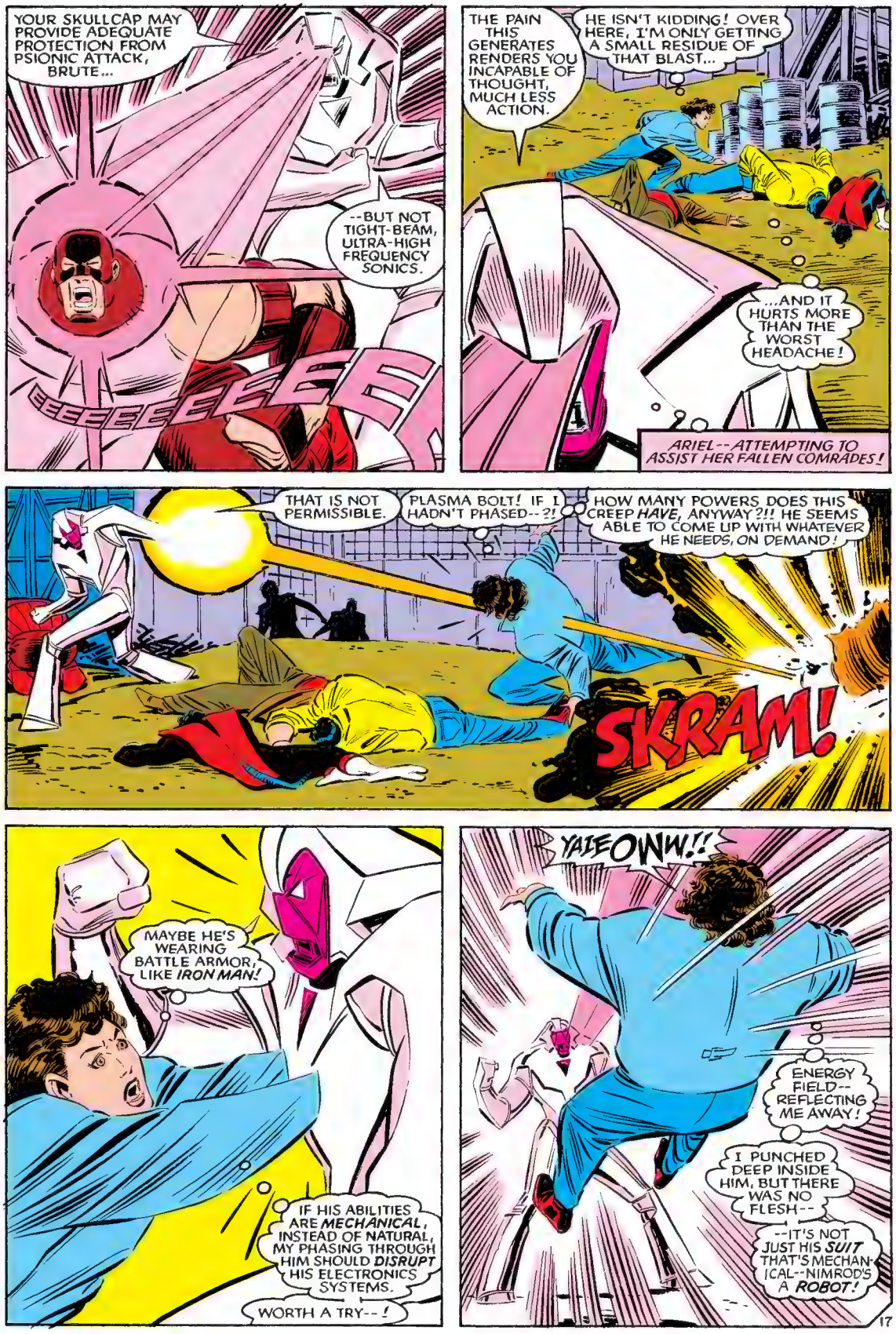

COMPU-SCAN MARKS THREE PRIMARY TARGETS:
...TWO ARE MUTANTS, ALL ARE KNOWN TO MY MEMORY BANKS.
JUGGERNAUT:
SUMMERS, A.:
PRYDE, K.:
YOU HAVE BEEN ADJUDGED ENEMIES OF HUMANITY.
SHZAM!
THE SENTENCE IS DEATH!
I DUNNO WHO OR WHAT YOU ARE, CLOWN, OR WHERE YOU COME FROM...
...BUT YOU JUST MADE A BIG MISTAKE!
CRIPES, HE MEANS US, TOO!
WHO IS THIS GUY?! HOW'D HE KNOW ABOUT US?!?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?!!
KITTY, I CAN'T MAINTAIN MY TELEKINETIC SHIELD MUCH LONGER.
SO LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
GRABBING HER TEAMMATE...
...KITTY PHASES THEM BOTH THROUGH THE FLOOR...

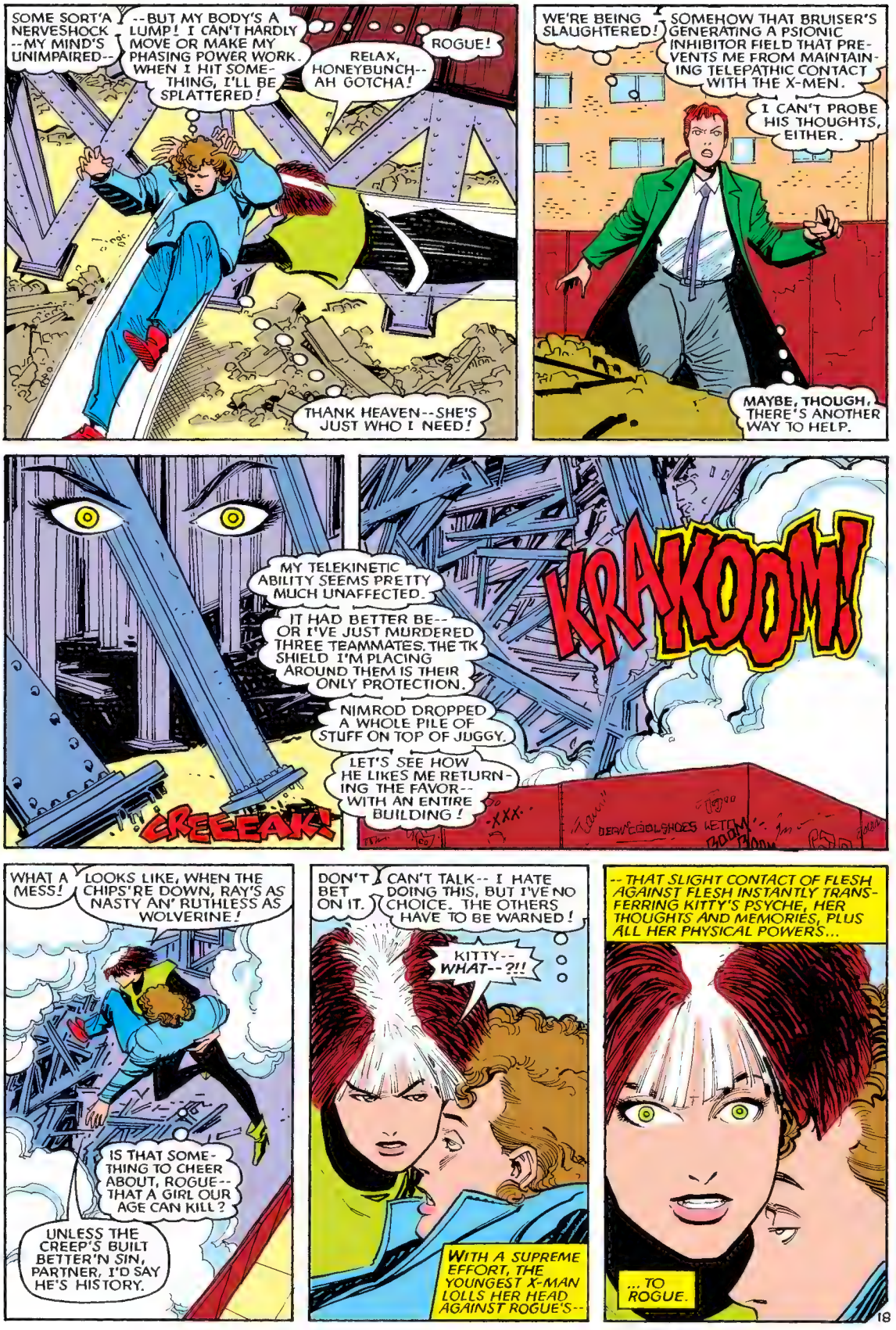

...INTO THE MAIN VAULT.
Y'KNOW, RAY...
...I BET I COULD BE ONE HECKUVA THIEF.
OR SPY-- MODESTY PRYDE-- KITTY BOND--
--HEY, YOU OKAY?!
N-NOT REALLY-- THE PEOPLE UPSTAIRS, THEY'RE PANICKING. THEIR FEAR AND PAIN--
-- PUNCHING THROUGH MY PSYCHIC SHIELDS. KITTY, IT HURTS!
HANG ON, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
MEANTIME, ALERT NIGHT-CRAWLER! AND IF YOU'RE ABLE...
...TRY TO CALM THAT CROWD-- IT MIGHT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER--GET 'EM TO LISTEN TO ME, FOLLOW MY LEAD...
...WHILE I LEAD 'EM TO SAFETY!
IS NIMROD A COP? SINCE THAT CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN FIASCO*, THE X-MEN ARE WANTED BY THE FEDS--
--MAYBE THE SMART PLAY IS TO HEAD FOR THE HILLS OURSELVES?
*LAST ISSUE -- A.
"THOSE TWO BOZOS LOOK LIKE THEY CAN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES."
YOU FRIED A BRAND NEW SET O' THREADS, CHUMP.
YOU PRETTY MUCH RUINED MY DAY.
THAT MAKES ME MAD!

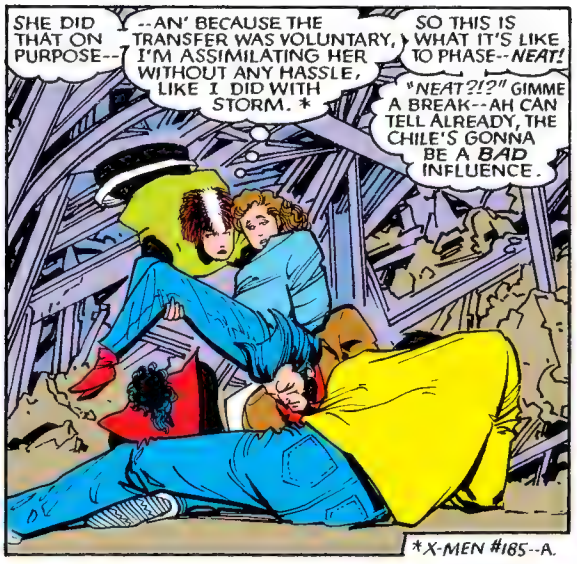

FINE WITH ME. SUCH OVERWHELMING EMOTIONS BREED CARELESSNESS.
CARELESS-NESS BREEDS MISTAKES.
MISTAKES MAKE MY VICTORY...
... THAT MUCH EASIER.
WHAMMO!
WOW!
AIN'T NEVER BEEN HIT SO HARD.
I THOUGHT ONLY THE HULK COULD PULL A STUNT LIKE THAT.
BTHOOM!
IN THIS ISOLATED LOCALE, I CAN DISPOSE OF YOU WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE INNOCENT LIVES I AM CHARGED TO PROTECT.
THEY WEREN'T IN ANY DANGER, DUMMY, TILL YOU SHOWED UP!
THIS MESS AIN'T MY FAULT, YOU STARTED IT!
AW, NUTS!
A DISINTEGRATOR-- IF NOT FOR THE MAGIC SPELL THAT MADE ME JUGGERNAUT, I COULD'A BEEN ZAPPED JUST LIKE THIS "I"-BEAM!
ZAAZ!
NIMROD MEANS BUSINESS--HE'S REALLY TRYIN' TO KILL ME!


OF COURSE.
CHOOM!
HAVEN'T I MADE MY INTENTIONS PLAIN?
RUNNING COMPARISON EVALUATION OF REFERENCE DATA IN MY MEMORY BANKS. JUGGERNAUT WAS STRUCK BY 1.37 KILOTONS OF STEEL. HE SHOULD EMERGE FUNDAMENTALLY UNHARMED...
...NOW!
KRUNCH!
IF THAT WAS YOUR BEST SHOT, BUSTER, YOU'RE IN A WHOLE LOTTA TROUBLE!
THERE THEY ARE!
BUT, MY FRIENDS, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?!
JUGGERNAUT IS A VILLAIN, ONE OF THE X-MEN'S OLDEST FOES-- SHOULD WE NOT AID IN HIS CAPTURE?!

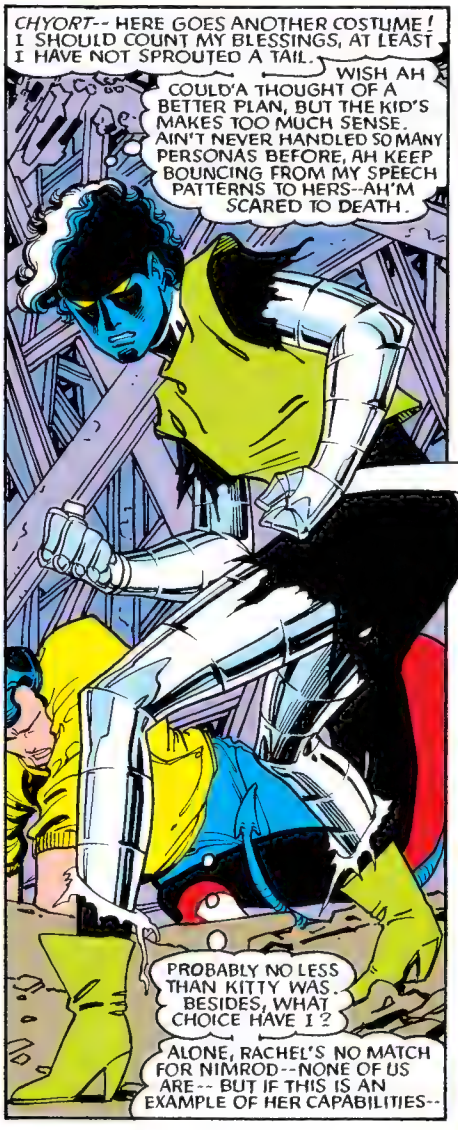

SENSORS MARK ARRIVAL OF PRIMARY ANTAGONISTS, ADJUSTING HUNTER-SLAYER SYSTEMS TO COMPENSATE.
I'M NOT SURE, COLOSSUS. THAT ARMORED PALADIN ATTACKED KITTY AND RACHEL AS WELL.
UNTIL WE DETERMINE WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON...
...WE'D BEST NOT TAKE SIDES... AHRR!
TRACKING SYSTEMS INDICATED TELEPORTER'S DESTINATION. STRIKE SYSTEMS DEALT WITH HIM.
LOOKS LIKE WE JUST GOT OUR ANSWER.
FASTBALL SPECIAL, ROGUE!
ON YOUR WAY, WOLVIE!
FORCE FIELD-- MY CLAWS CAN'T CUT THROUGH IT--
--REFLECTIN' ME BACK-- UHNGKF!
HE LANDS WITH SUCH FORCE THAT EVEN HIS EXTRAORDINARILY RESILIENT ADAMANTIUM-LACED SKELETON...
...CANNOT PREVENT HIM BEING STUNNED INSTANTLY INSENSIBLE.
ESTIMATE 93 SECONDS BEFORE WOLVERINE'S MUTANT HEALING FACTOR RESTORES HIM TO FUNCTIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS. SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO EFFECT TERMINATION.
MY HELMET-- BUT IT'S SEAL WAS S'POSED TO BE UNBREAKABLE, TOM PROMISED!

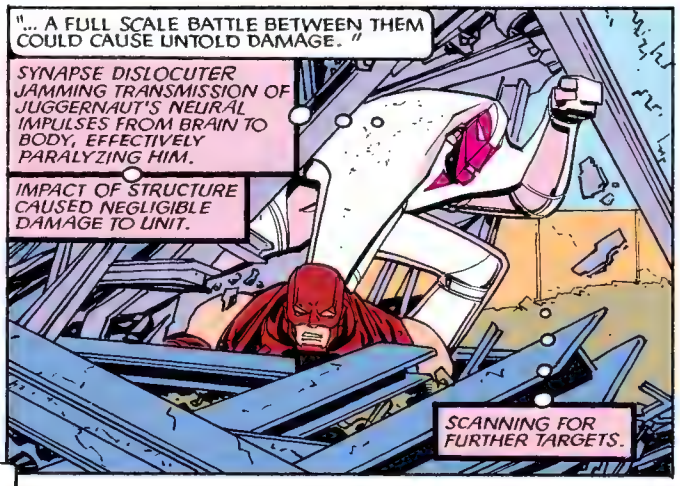

YOUR SKULLCAP MAY PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION FROM PSIONIC ATTACK, BRUTE...
--BUT NOT TIGHT-BEAM, ULTRA-HIGH FREQUENCY SONICS.
EEEEEEEEEE!
THE PAIN THIS GENERATES RENDERS YOU INCAPABLE OF THOUGHT, MUCH LESS ACTION.
HE ISN'T KIDDING! OVER HERE, I'M ONLY GETTING A SMALL RESIDUE OF THAT BLAST...
...AND IT HURTS MORE THAN THE WORST HEADACHE!
ARIEL--ATTEMPTING TO ASSIST HER FALLEN COMRADES!
THAT IS NOT PERMISSIBLE.
PLASMA BOLT! IF I HADN'T PHASED--?!
HOW MANY POWERS DOES THIS CREEP HAVE, ANYWAY?!! HE SEEMS ABLE TO COME UP WITH WHATEVER HE NEEDS, ON DEMAND!
SKRAM!
MAYBE HE'S WEARING BATTLE ARMOR, LIKE IRON MAN!
IF HIS ABILITIES ARE MECHANICAL, INSTEAD OF NATURAL, MY PHASING THROUGH HIM SHOULD DISRUPT HIS ELECTRONICS SYSTEMS.
WORTH A TRY--!
YAIEOWW!!
ENERGY FIELD--REFLECTING ME AWAY!
I PUNCHED DEEP INSIDE HIM, BUT THERE WAS NO FLESH--
--IT'S NOT JUST HIS SUIT THAT'S MECHANICAL--NIMROD'S A ROBOT!

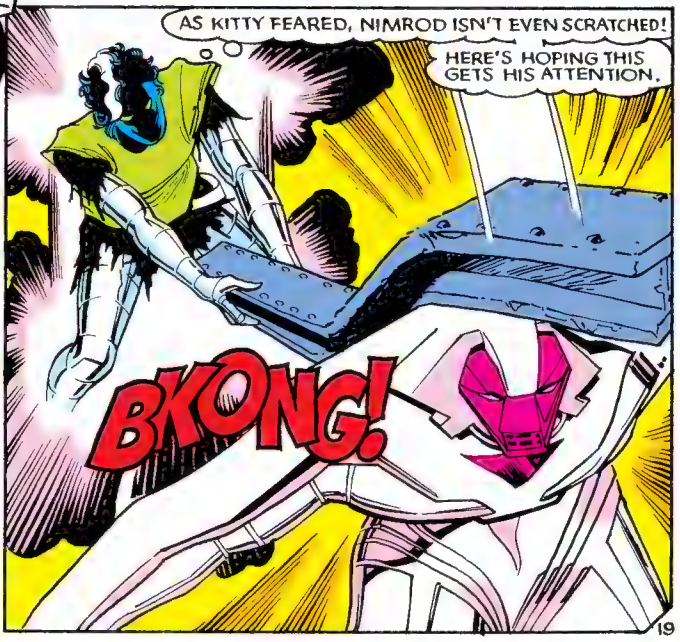

SOME SORT'A NERVESHOCK --MY MIND'S UNIMPAIRED--
--BUT MY BODY'S A LUMP! I CAN'T HARDLY MOVE OR MAKE MY PHASING POWER WORK. WHEN I HIT SOMETHING, I'LL BE SPLATTERED!
ROGUE!
RELAX, HONEYBUNCH--AH GOTCHA!
THANK HEAVEN--SHE'S JUST WHO I NEED!
WE'RE BEING SLAUGHTERED!
SOMEHOW THAT BRUISER'S GENERATING A PSIONIC INHIBITOR FIELD THAT PREVENTS ME FROM MAINTAINING TELEPATHIC CONTACT WITH THE X-MEN.
I CAN'T PROBE HIS THOUGHTS, EITHER.
MAYBE, THOUGH, THERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO HELP.
MY TELEKINETIC ABILITY SEEMS PRETTY MUCH UNAFFECTED.
IT HAD BETTER BE--OR I'VE JUST MURDERED THREE TEAMMATES. THE TK SHIELD I'M PLACING AROUND THEM IS THEIR ONLY PROTECTION.
NIMROD DROPPED A WHOLE PILE OF STUFF ON TOP OF JUGGY.
LET'S SEE HOW HE LIKES ME RETURNING THE FAVOR--WITH AN ENTIRE BUILDING!
CREEEAK!
KRAKOOM!
WHAT A MESS!
LOOKS LIKE, WHEN THE CHIPS'RE DOWN, RAY'S AS NASTY AN' RUTHLESS AS WOLVERINE!
IS THAT SOMETHING TO CHEER ABOUT, ROGUE--THAT A GIRL OUR AGE CAN KILL?
UNLESS THE CREEP'S BUILT BETTER'N SIN, PARTNER, I'D SAY HE'S HISTORY.
DON'T BET ON IT.
CAN'T TALK-- I HATE DOING THIS, BUT I'VE NO CHOICE. THE OTHERS HAVE TO BE WARNED!
KITTY--WHAT--?!!
WITH A SUPREME EFFORT, THE YOUNGEST X-MAN LOLLS HER HEAD AGAINST ROGUE'S--
--THAT SLIGHT CONTACT OF FLESH AGAINST FLESH INSTANTLY TRANSFERRING KITTY'S PSYCHE, HER THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES, PLUS ALL HER PHYSICAL POWERS...
...TO ROGUE.

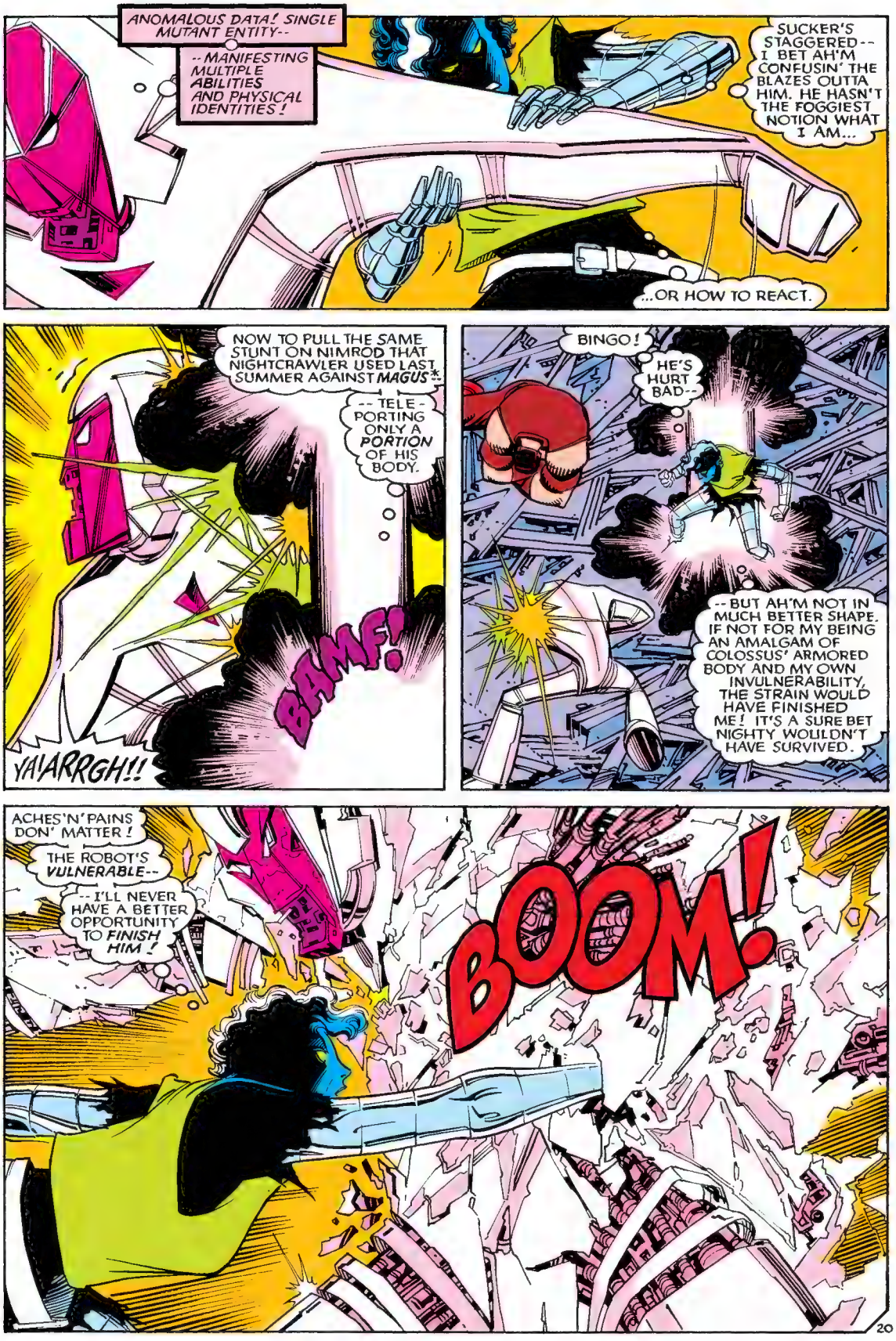

SHE DID THAT ON PURPOSE--
--AN' BECAUSE THE TRANSFER WAS VOLUNTARY, I'M ASSIMILATING HER WITHOUT ANY HASSLE, LIKE I DID WITH STORM. *
SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO PHASE--NEAT!
"NEAT?!?" GIMME A BREAK--AH CAN TELL ALREADY, THE CHILE'S GONNA BE A BAD INFLUENCE.
*X-MEN #185--A.

GOTTA ACT FAST.
THE RUBBLE'S SHAKING, NIMROD MUST BE SMASHING HIMSELF FREE.
SORRY ABOUT THIS, FELLAS, BUT YOUR POWERS ARE NEEDED, TOO.

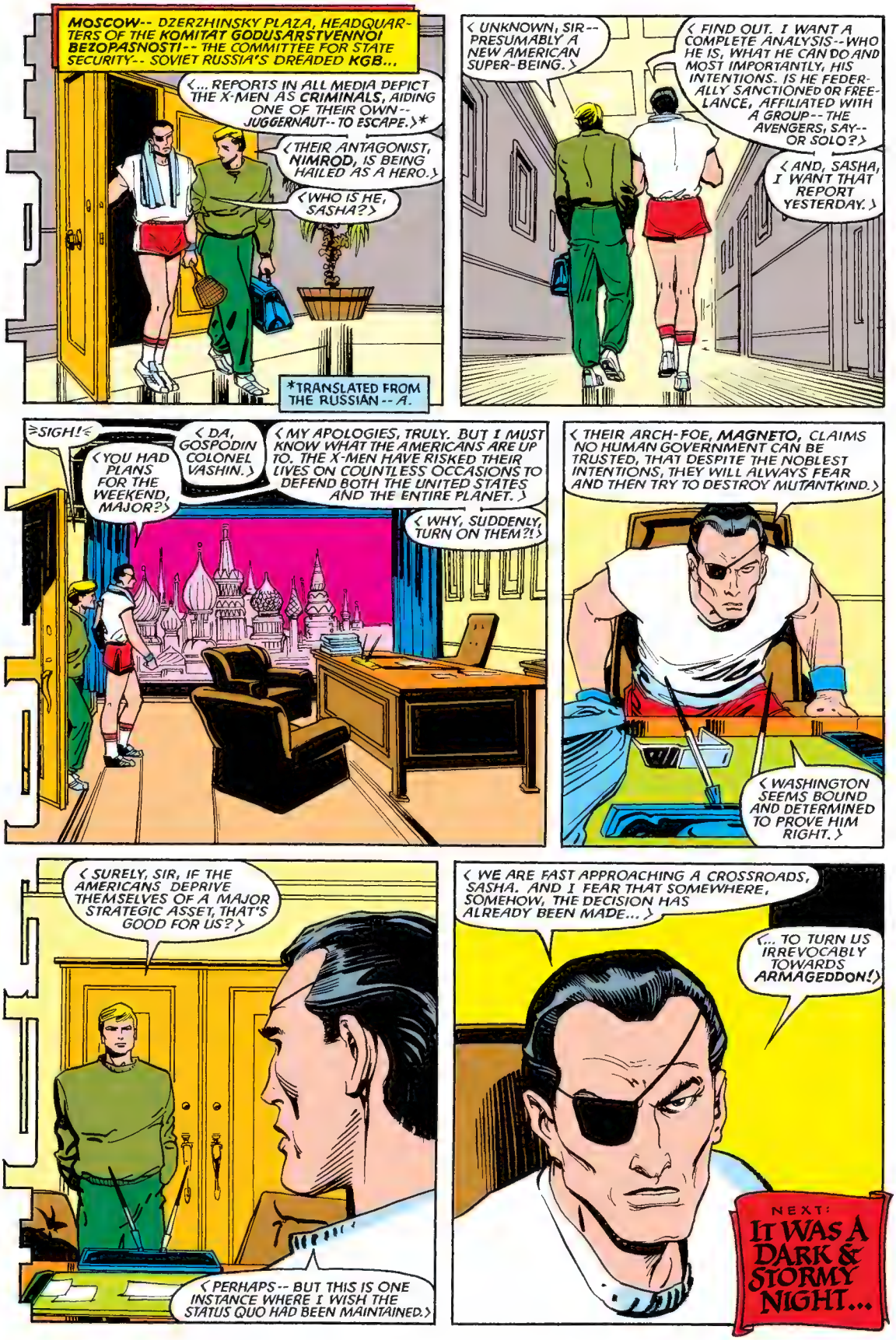

CHYORT-- HERE GOES ANOTHER COSTUME! I SHOULD COUNT MY BLESSINGS, AT LEAST I HAVE NOT SPROUTED A TAIL.
WISH AH COULD'A THOUGHT OF A BETTER PLAN, BUT THE KID'S MAKES TOO MUCH SENSE. AIN'T NEVER HANDLED SO MANY PERSONAS BEFORE, AH KEEP BOUNCING FROM MY SPEECH PATTERNS TO HERS--AH'M SCARED TO DEATH.
PROBABLY NO LESS THAN KITTY WAS. BESIDES, WHAT CHOICE HAVE I?
ALONE, RACHEL'S NO MATCH FOR NIMROD--NONE OF US ARE-- BUT IF THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF HER CAPABILITIES--


"... A FULL SCALE BATTLE BETWEEN THEM COULD CAUSE UNTOLD DAMAGE."
SYNAPSE DISLOCUTER JAMMING TRANSMISSION OF JUGGERNAUT'S NEURAL IMPULSES FROM BRAIN TO BODY, EFFECTIVELY PARALYZING HIM.
IMPACT OF STRUCTURE CAUSED NEGLIGIBLE DAMAGE TO UNIT.
SCANNING FOR FURTHER TARGETS.


AS KITTY FEARED, NIMROD ISN'T EVEN SCRATCHED!
HERE'S HOPING THIS GETS HIS ATTENTION.
BKONG!


ANOMALOUS DATA! SINGLE MUTANT ENTITY--
--MANIFESTING MULTIPLE ABILITIES AND PHYSICAL IDENTITIES!
SUCKER'S STAGGERED-- I BET AH'M CONFUSIN' THE BLAZES OUTTA HIM. HE HASN'T THE FOGGIEST NOTION WHAT I AM...
...OR HOW TO REACT.
NOW TO PULL THE SAME STUNT ON NIMROD THAT NIGHTCRAWLER USED LAST SUMMER AGAINST MAGUS*.
--TELE-PORTING ONLY A PORTION OF HIS BODY.
BAMF!
YA!ARRGH!!
BINGO!
HE'S HURT BAD--
--BUT AH'M NOT IN MUCH BETTER SHAPE. IF NOT FOR MY BEING AN AMALGAM OF COLOSSUS' ARMORED BODY AND MY OWN INVULNERABILITY, THE STRAIN WOULD HAVE FINISHED ME! IT'S A SURE BET NIGHTY WOULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED.
ACHES'N'PAINS DON' MATTER!
THE ROBOT'S VULNERABLE--
--I'LL NEVER HAVE A BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO FINISH HIM!
BOOM!

UNFORTUNATELY...
AW, SHOOT!
NO FAIR!
FANTASTIC--NIMROD'S REINTEGRATING HIMSELF!
AH DON'T B'LIEVE THIS, WE'RE ALL IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT AN' KITTY'S CONSCIOUSNESS'S TAKIN' NOTES INSIDE MY HEAD!
HE MUST HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OF HIS COMPONENT ELEMENTS, DOWN TO A MOLECULAR LEVEL! TO DESTROY HIM, YOU'D HAVE TO GRIND HIM DOWN TO POWDER--AND EVEN THAT MIGHT NOT DO THE TRICK--
WHOOPS!
HE'S TELEPORTING!
GUESS WE WERE TOO MUCH FOR THE POOR DEAR.
YEAH, THIS TIME.
WE WERE LUCKY.
BUT HE'LL BE BACK. AH FEEL IT IN MY BONES.
WHERE-- KOFF KAK GASP KOFF--?!
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU DYIN', BIG GUY?
CATCHIN'... MY BREATH... IS ALL, GIRLIE.
WHERE'S THE SHINY SLEAZEBALL?!
GONE. YOUR BASIC STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL.
YOU X-CHUMPS PLAN ON PICKIN' UP WHERE HE LEFT OFF?!
WE SAVED YOUR BUTT, BOZO. TRUST YOU TO MAKE US REGRET IT.
WE AIN'T THE LAW, AN' THIS FRACAS WASN'T YOUR FAULT--BETTER VAMOOSE, THOUGH, B'FORE TH' AVENGERS SHOW.
DON'T SAY "THANKS" OR NOTHIN'.
JERK.
Oh, WONDERFUL!
AH DIDN'T REALIZE WE HAD AN AUDIENCE, TV NEWSCREWS AN' ALL. LORD ONLY KNOWS WHAT THEY MADE O' THIS. AH S'POSE WE COULD EXPLAIN--BUT WHO'D B'LIEVE US?!!
TAKE MY HAND, RAY--I'LL PHASE US INTO THE WRECKAGE AFTER THE BOYS.
WHICH WAY FROM HERE?
DOWN, INTO THE MORLOCK TUNNELS--WE'LL USE THEM TO REACH HOME.
AND THEN--?!
HOW SHOULD AH KNOW, GIRL?! THE X-MEN DID THEIR BEST TODAY--LIKE WE ALWAYS DO--AN' ONLY MADE THINGS WORSE FOR OURSELVES. AN' THE CRAZIEST THING IS, RACHEL--GIVEN THE CHANCE, WE'D PROB'LY DO THE SAME THING OVER AGAIN. EV'RY LOUSY TIME!


MOSCOW-- DZERZHINSKY PLAZA, HEADQUARTERS OF THE KOMITAT GODUSARSTVENNOI BEZOPASNOSTI -- THE COMMITTEE FOR STATE SECURITY-- SOVIET RUSSIA'S DREADED KGB...
〈... REPORTS IN ALL MEDIA DEPICT THE X-MEN AS CRIMINALS, AIDING ONE OF THEIR OWN-- JUGGERNAUT-- TO ESCAPE.〉*
〈THEIR ANTAGONIST, NIMROD, IS BEING HAILED AS A HERO.〉
〈WHO IS HE, SASHA?〉
*TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN -- A.
〈 UNKNOWN, SIR-- PRESUMABLY A NEW AMERICAN SUPER-BEING. 〉
〈 FIND OUT. I WANT A COMPLETE ANALYSIS--WHO HE IS, WHAT HE CAN DO AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, HIS INTENTIONS. IS HE FEDERALLY SANCTIONED OR FREE-LANCE, AFFILIATED WITH A GROUP-- THE AVENGERS, SAY-- OR SOLO?〉
〈 AND, SASHA, I WANT THAT REPORT YESTERDAY. 〉
≥SIGH!≤
〈YOU HAD PLANS FOR THE WEEKEND, MAJOR?〉
〈 DA, GOSPODIN COLONEL VASHIN.〉
〈 MY APOLOGIES, TRULY. BUT I MUST KNOW WHAT THE AMERICANS ARE UP TO. THE X-MEN HAVE RISKED THEIR LIVES ON COUNTLESS OCCASIONS TO DEFEND BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE ENTIRE PLANET. 〉
〈 WHY, SUDDENLY, TURN ON THEM?!〉
〈 THEIR ARCH-FOE, MAGNETO, CLAIMS NO HUMAN GOVERNMENT CAN BE TRUSTED, THAT DESPITE THE NOBLEST INTENTIONS, THEY WILL ALWAYS FEAR AND THEN TRY TO DESTROY MUTANTKIND.〉
〈 WASHINGTON SEEMS BOUND AND DETERMINED TO PROVE HIM RIGHT. 〉
〈 SURELY, SIR, IF THE AMERICANS DEPRIVE THEMSELVES OF A MAJOR STRATEGIC ASSET, THAT'S GOOD FOR US?〉
〈 PERHAPS-- BUT THIS IS ONE INSTANCE WHERE I WISH THE STATUS QUO HAD BEEN MAINTAINED.〉
〈 WE ARE FAST APPROACHING A CROSSROADS, SASHA. AND I FEAR THAT SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW, THE DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE... 〉
〈... TO TURN US IRREVOCABLY TOWARDS ARMAGEDDON!〉
NEXT:
IT WAS A DARK & STORMY NIGHT...

MARVEL
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
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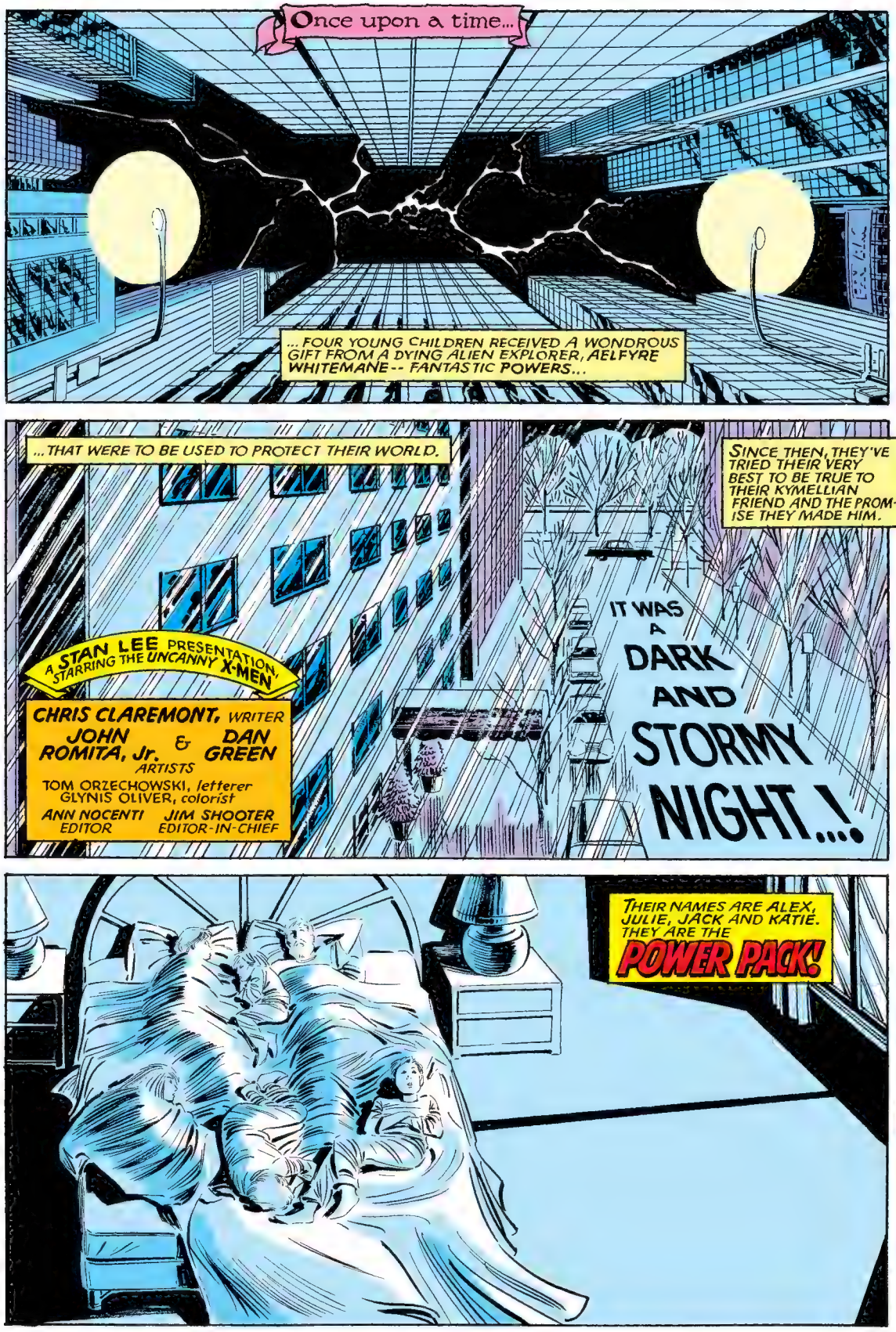
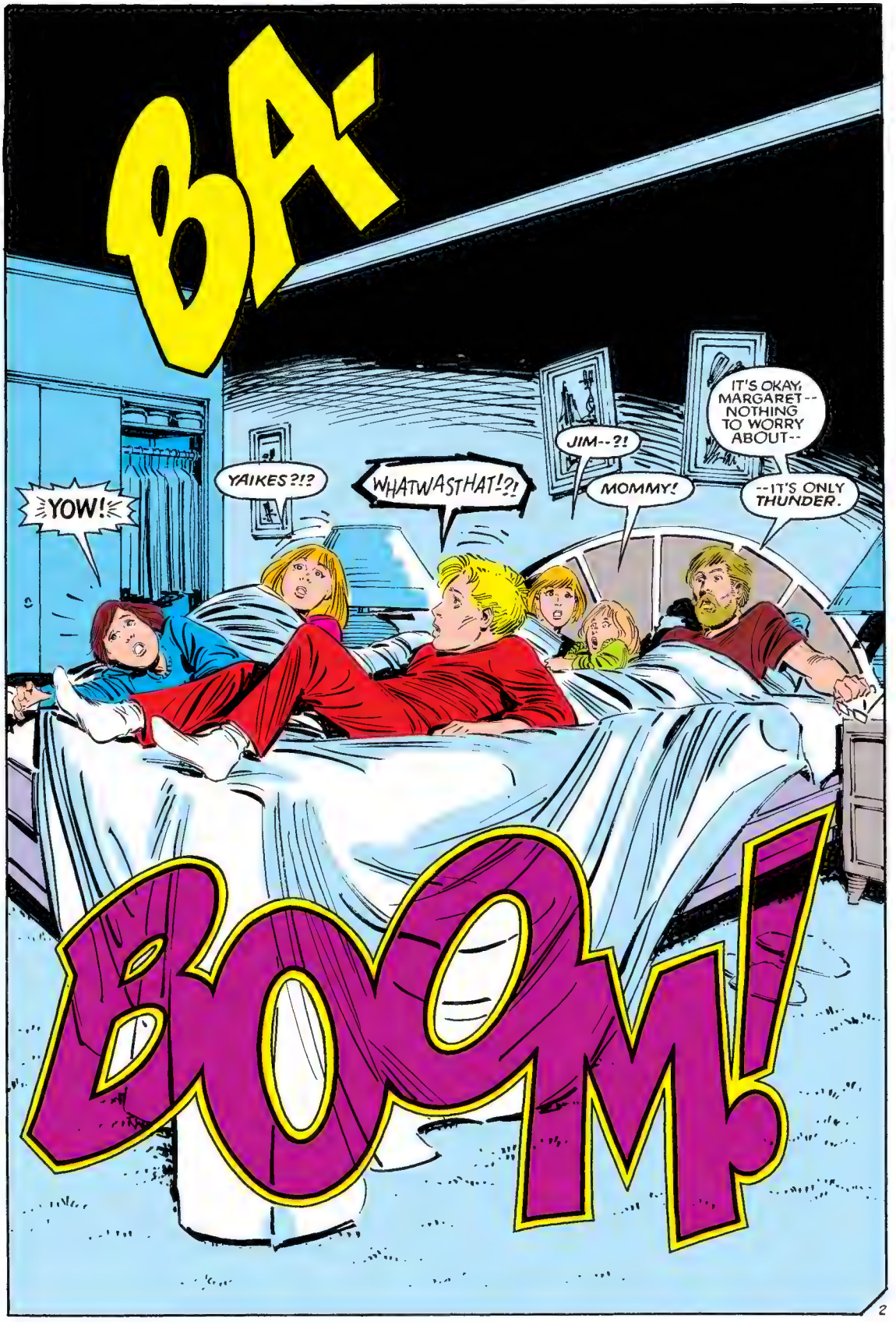
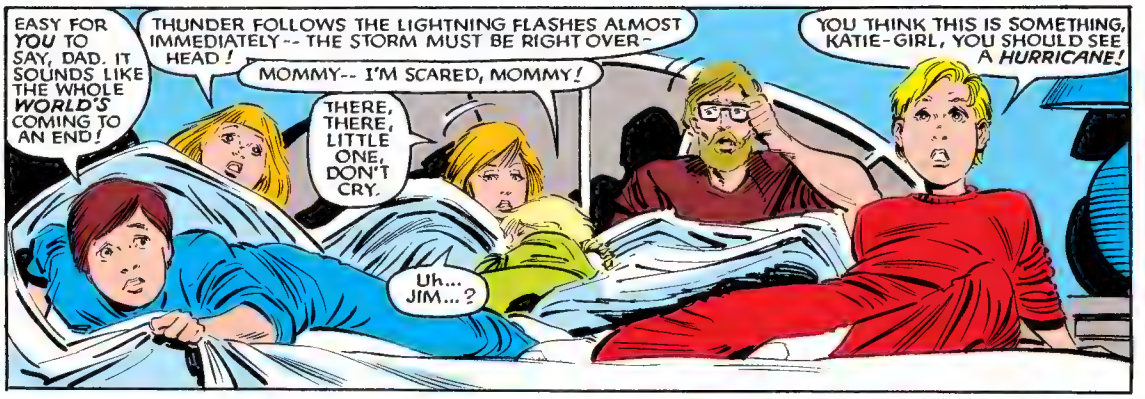
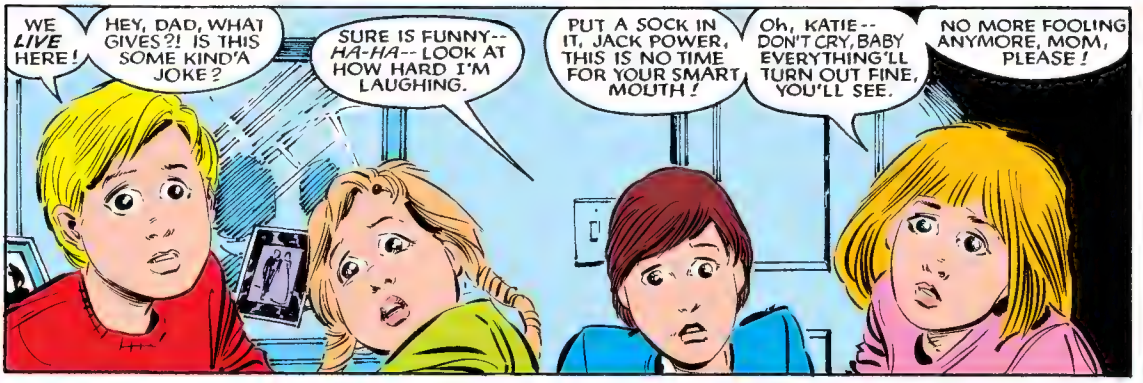
TM
65¢
195
JULY
02461
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

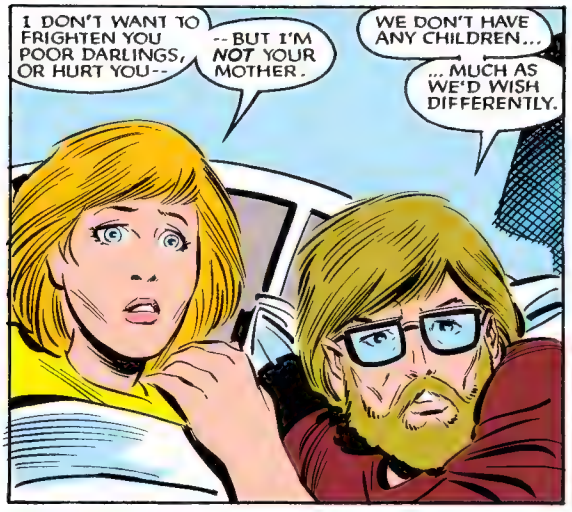

Once upon a time...
... FOUR YOUNG CHILDREN RECEIVED A WONDROUS GIFT FROM A DYING ALIEN EXPLORER, AELFYRE WHITEMANE -- FANTASTIC POWERS...
... THAT WERE TO BE USED TO PROTECT THEIR WORLD.
SINCE THEN, THEY'VE TRIED THEIR VERY BEST TO BE TRUE TO THEIR KYMELLIAN FRIEND AND THE PROMISE THEY MADE HIM.
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION, STARRING THE UNCANNY X-MEN
CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
JOHN ROMITA, Jr. & DAN GREEN ARTISTS
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, letterer
GLYNIS OLIVER, colorist
ANN NOCENTI EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT...!
THEIR NAMES ARE ALEX, JULIE, JACK AND KATIE. THEY ARE THE POWER PACK!

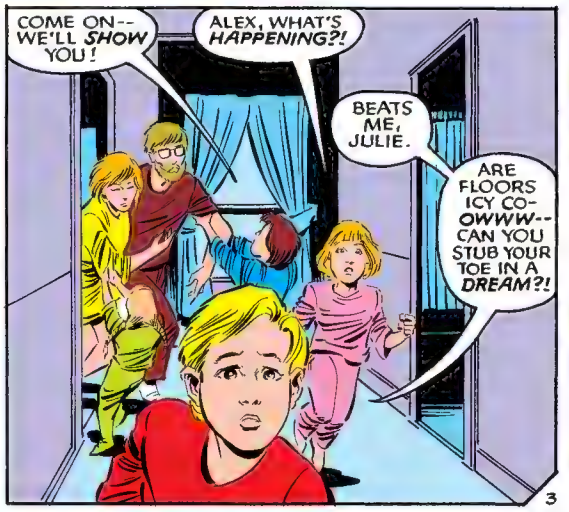

BA-
YOW!
YAIKES?!?
WHATWASTHAT!?!
JIM--?!
MOMMY!
IT'S OKAY, MARGARET-- NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT--
--IT'S ONLY THUNDER.
BOOM!

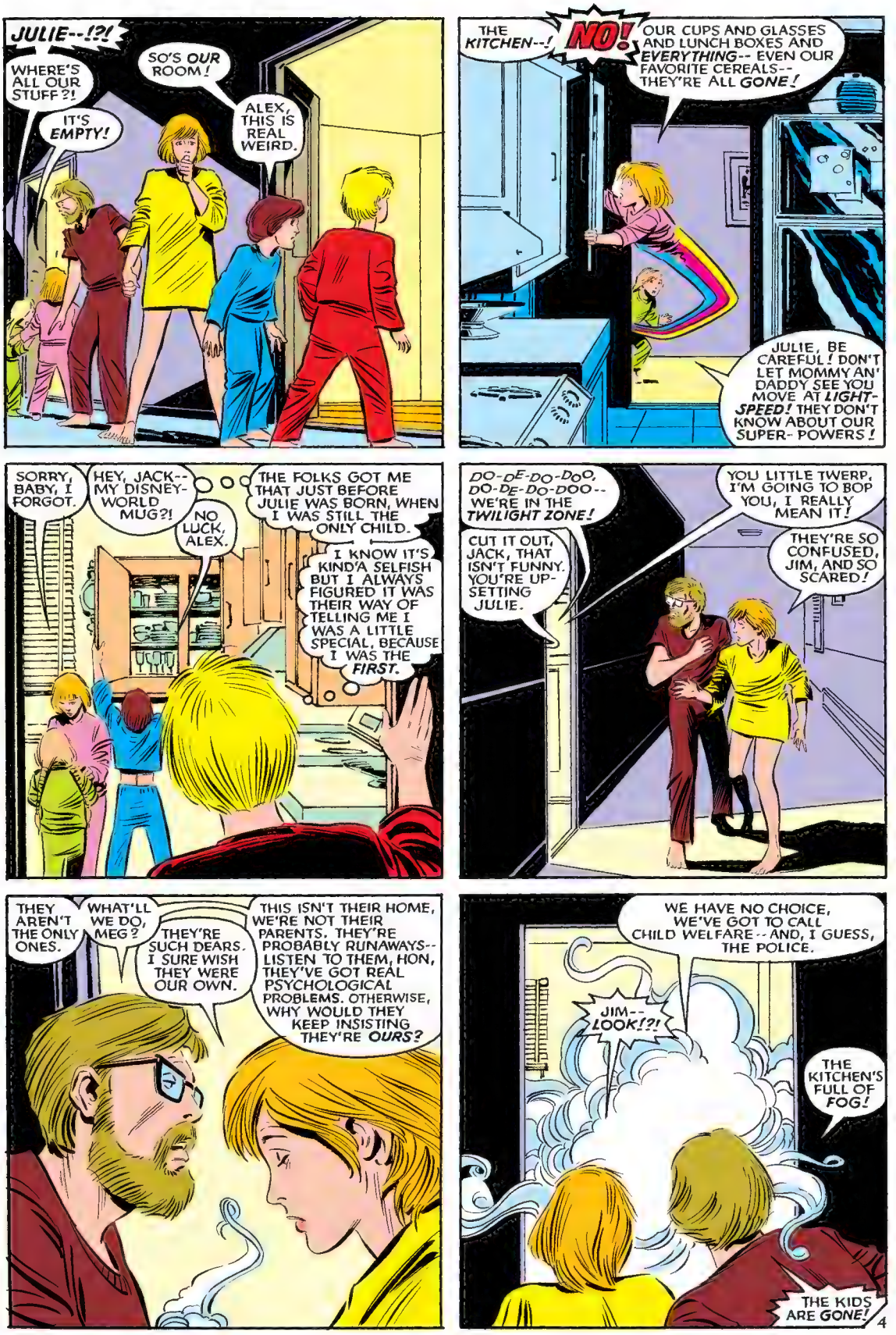

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, DAD. IT SOUNDS LIKE THE WHOLE WORLD'S COMING TO AN END!
THUNDER FOLLOWS THE LIGHTNING FLASHES ALMOST IMMEDIATELY-- THE STORM MUST BE RIGHT OVER-HEAD!
MOMMY-- I'M SCARED, MOMMY!
THERE, THERE, LITTLE ONE, DON'T CRY.
Uh... JIM...?
YOU THINK THIS IS SOMETHING, KATIE-GIRL, YOU SHOULD SEE A HURRICANE!

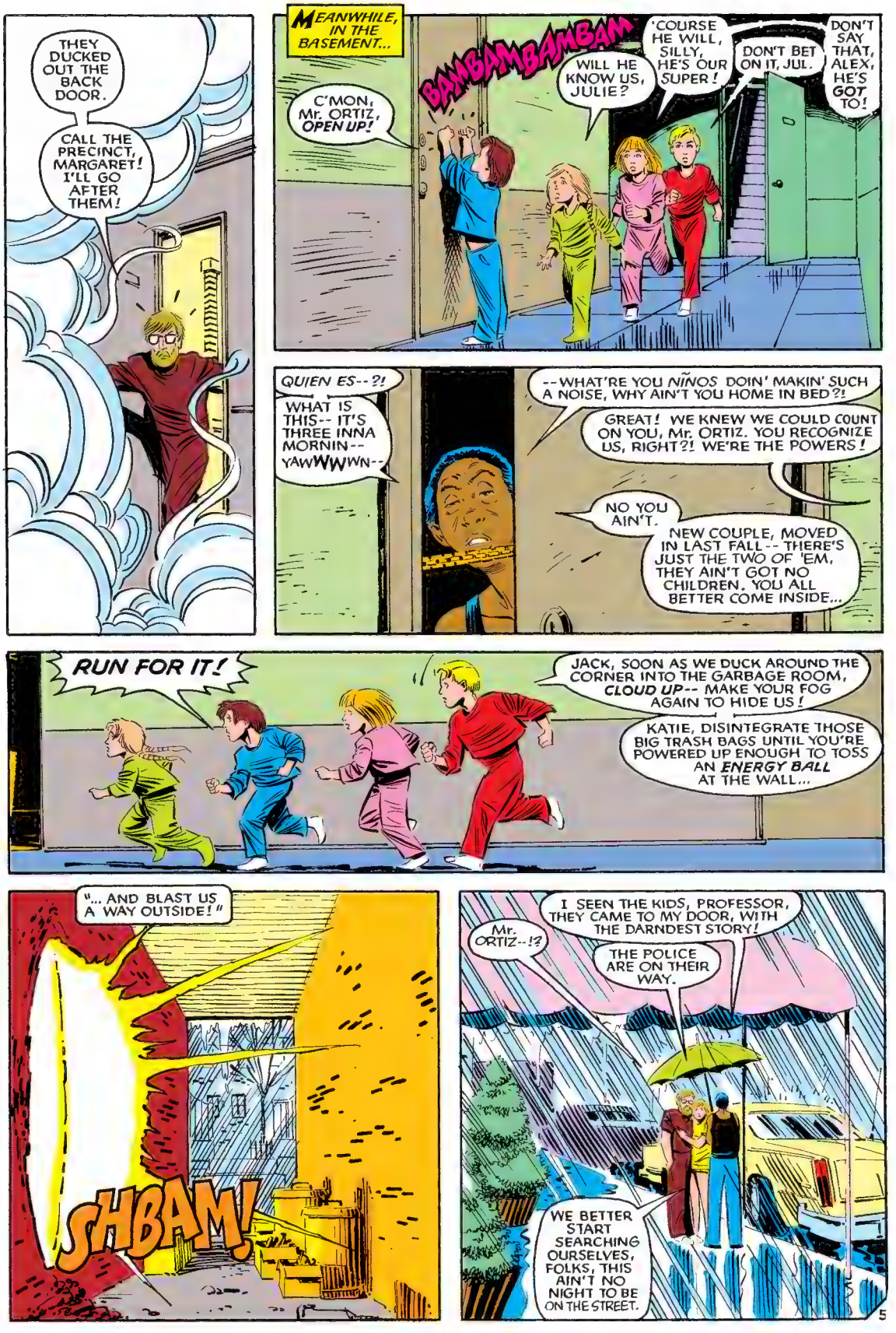
WHO ARE YOU CHILDREN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
HOW DID YOU GET INTO OUR APARTMENT?!!
?!?

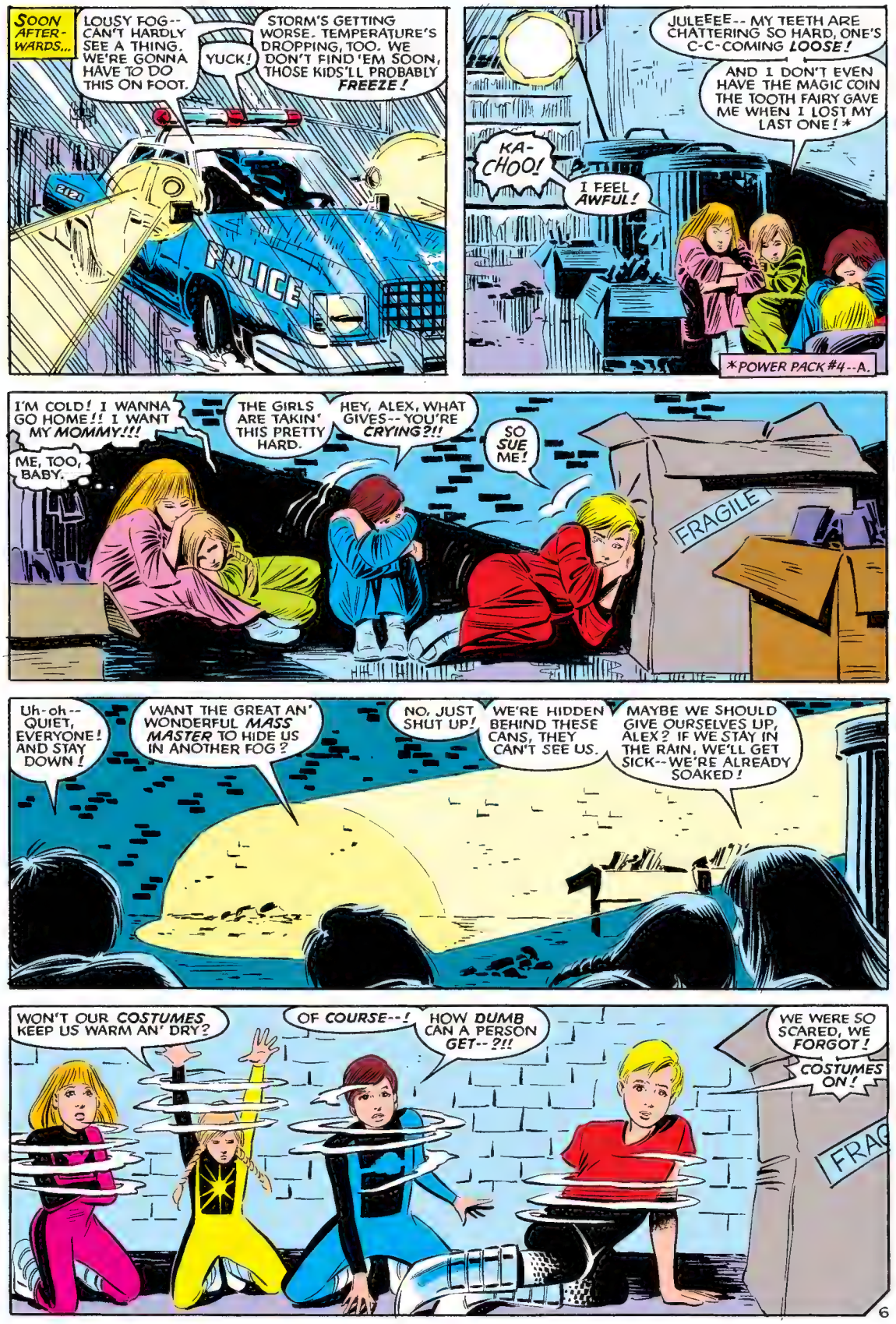

WE LIVE HERE!
HEY, DAD, WHAT GIVES?! IS THIS SOME KIND'A JOKE?
SURE IS FUNNY-- HA-HA-- LOOK AT HOW HARD I'M LAUGHING.
PUT A SOCK IN IT, JACK POWER, THIS IS NO TIME FOR YOUR SMART MOUTH!
Oh, KATIE-- DON'T CRY, BABY EVERYTHING'LL TURN OUT FINE, YOU'LL SEE.
NO MORE FOOLING ANYMORE, MOM, PLEASE!


I DON'T WANT TO FRIGHTEN YOU POOR DARLINGS, OR HURT YOU--
--BUT I'M NOT YOUR MOTHER.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN...
...MUCH AS WE'D WISH DIFFERENTLY.


COME ON-- WE'LL SHOW YOU!
ALEX, WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
BEATS ME, JULIE.
ARE FLOORS ICY CO-OWWW-- CAN YOU STUB YOUR TOE IN A DREAM?!

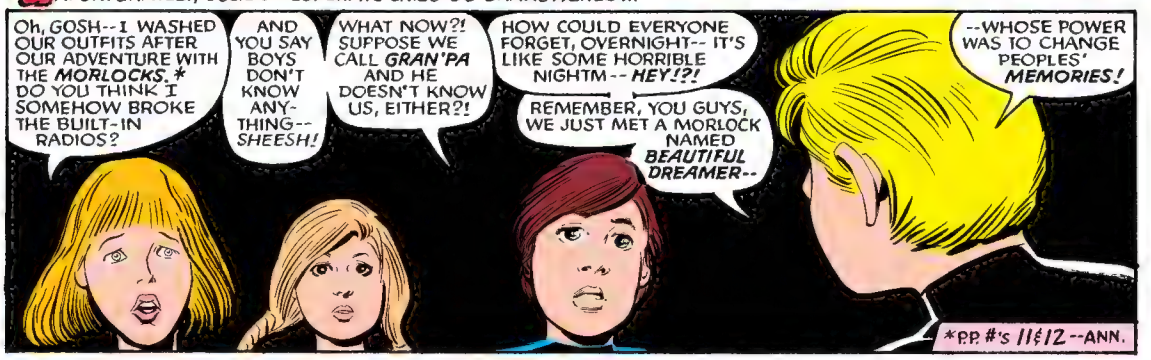

JULIE--!?!
WHERE'S ALL OUR STUFF?!
IT'S EMPTY!
SO'S OUR ROOM!
ALEX, THIS IS REAL WEIRD.
THE KITCHEN--!
NO!
OUR CUPS AND GLASSES AND LUNCH BOXES AND EVERYTHING-- EVEN OUR FAVORITE CEREALS-- THEY'RE ALL GONE!
JULIE, BE CAREFUL! DON'T LET MOMMY AN' DADDY SEE YOU MOVE AT LIGHT-SPEED! THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT OUR SUPER-POWERS!
SORRY, BABY, I FORGOT.
HEY, JACK-- MY DISNEY-WORLD MUG?!
NO LUCK, ALEX.
THE FOLKS GOT ME THAT JUST BEFORE JULIE WAS BORN, WHEN I WAS STILL THE ONLY CHILD.
I KNOW IT'S KIND'A SELFISH BUT I ALWAYS FIGURED IT WAS THEIR WAY OF TELLING ME I WAS A LITTLE SPECIAL, BECAUSE I WAS THE FIRST.
DO-DE-DO-DOO, DO-DE-DO-DOO-- WE'RE IN THE TWILIGHT ZONE!
CUT IT OUT, JACK, THAT ISN'T FUNNY. YOU'RE UP-SETTING JULIE.
YOU LITTLE TWERP, I'M GOING TO BOP YOU, I REALLY MEAN IT!
THEY'RE SO CONFUSED, JIM, AND SO SCARED!
THEY AREN'T THE ONLY ONES.
WHAT'LL WE DO, MEG?
THEY'RE SUCH DEARS. I SURE WISH THEY WERE OUR OWN.
THIS ISN'T THEIR HOME, WE'RE NOT THEIR PARENTS. THEY'RE PROBABLY RUNAWAYS-- LISTEN TO THEM, HON, THEY'VE GOT REAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS. OTHERWISE, WHY WOULD THEY KEEP INSISTING THEY'RE OURS?
WE HAVE NO CHOICE, WE'VE GOT TO CALL CHILD WELFARE-- AND, I GUESS, THE POLICE.
JIM-- LOOK!?!
THE KITCHEN'S FULL OF FOG!
THE KIDS ARE GONE!

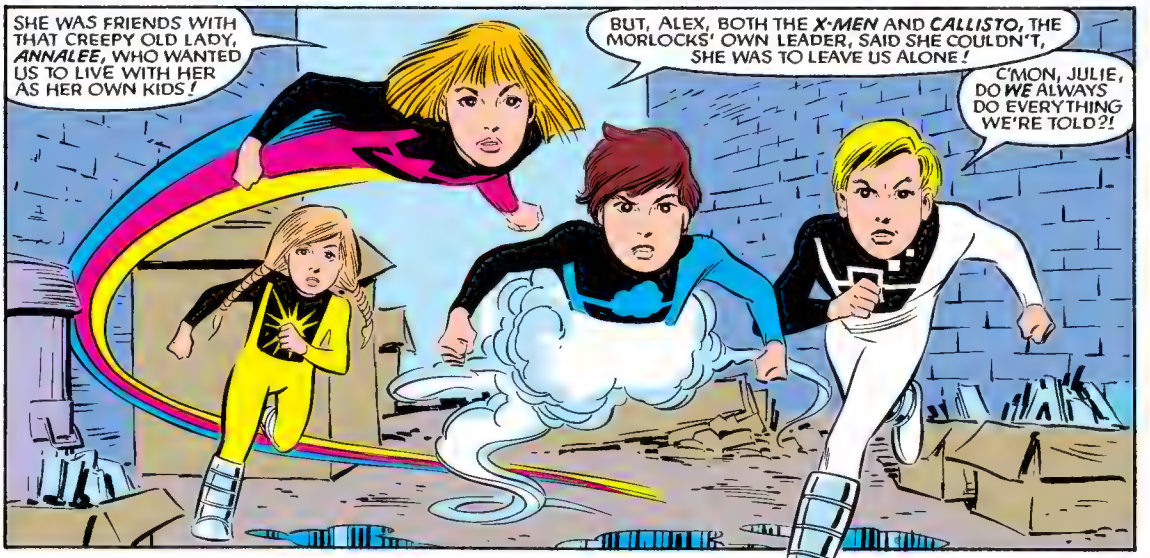

THEY DUCKED OUT THE BACK DOOR.
CALL THE PRECINCT, MARGARET! I'LL GO AFTER THEM!
MEANWHILE, IN THE BASEMENT...
C'MON, Mr. ORTIZ, OPEN UP!
BAMBAMBAMBAM
WILL HE KNOW US, JULIE?
'COURSE HE WILL, SILLY, HE'S OUR SUPER!
DON'T BET ON IT, JUL.
DON'T SAY THAT, ALEX, HE'S GOT TO!
QUIEN ES--?!
WHAT IS THIS-- IT'S THREE INNA MORNIN-- YAWWWWN--
--WHAT'RE YOU NIÑOS DOIN' MAKIN' SUCH A NOISE, WHY AIN'T YOU HOME IN BED?!
GREAT! WE KNEW WE COULD COUNT ON YOU, Mr. ORTIZ. YOU RECOGNIZE US, RIGHT?! WE'RE THE POWERS!
NO YOU AIN'T.
NEW COUPLE, MOVED IN LAST FALL-- THERE'S JUST THE TWO OF 'EM, THEY AIN'T GOT NO CHILDREN. YOU ALL BETTER COME INSIDE...
RUN FOR IT!
JACK, SOON AS WE DUCK AROUND THE CORNER INTO THE GARBAGE ROOM, CLOUD UP-- MAKE YOUR FOG AGAIN TO HIDE US!
KATIE, DISINTEGRATE THOSE BIG TRASH BAGS UNTIL YOU'RE POWERED UP ENOUGH TO TOSS AN ENERGY BALL AT THE WALL...
"... AND BLAST US A WAY OUTSIDE!"
SHBAM!
I SEEN THE KIDS, PROFESSOR, THEY CAME TO MY DOOR, WITH THE DARNDEST STORY!
Mr. ORTIZ--!?
THE POLICE ARE ON THEIR WAY.
WE BETTER START SEARCHING OURSELVES, FOLKS, THIS AIN'T NO NIGHT TO BE ON THE STREET.


SOON AFTER-WARDS...
LOUSY FOG-- CAN'T HARDLY SEE A THING. WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO THIS ON FOOT.
YUCK!
STORM'S GETTING WORSE. TEMPERATURE'S DROPPING, TOO. WE DON'T FIND 'EM SOON, THOSE KIDS'LL PROBABLY FREEZE!
POLICE
JULEEEE-- MY TEETH ARE CHATTERING SO HARD, ONE'S C-C-COMING LOOSE!
AND I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE MAGIC COIN THE TOOTH FAIRY GAVE ME WHEN I LOST MY LAST ONE! *
KA-CHOO!
I FEEL AWFUL!
*POWER PACK #4--A.
I'M COLD! I WANNA GO HOME!! I WANT MY MOMMY!!!
ME, TOO, BABY.
THE GIRLS ARE TAKIN' THIS PRETTY HARD.
HEY, ALEX, WHAT GIVES-- YOU'RE CRYING?!!
SO SUE ME!
FRAGILE
Uh-oh-- QUIET, EVERYONE! AND STAY DOWN!
WANT THE GREAT AN' WONDERFUL MASS MASTER TO HIDE US IN ANOTHER FOG?
NO, JUST SHUT UP!
WE'RE HIDDEN BEHIND THESE CANS, THEY CAN'T SEE US.
MAYBE WE SHOULD GIVE OURSELVES UP, ALEX? IF WE STAY IN THE RAIN, WE'LL GET SICK-- WE'RE ALREADY SOAKED!
WON'T OUR COSTUMES KEEP US WARM AN' DRY?
OF COURSE--!
HOW DUMB CAN A PERSON GET--?!!
WE WERE SO SCARED, WE FORGOT!
COSTUMES ON!
FRAG

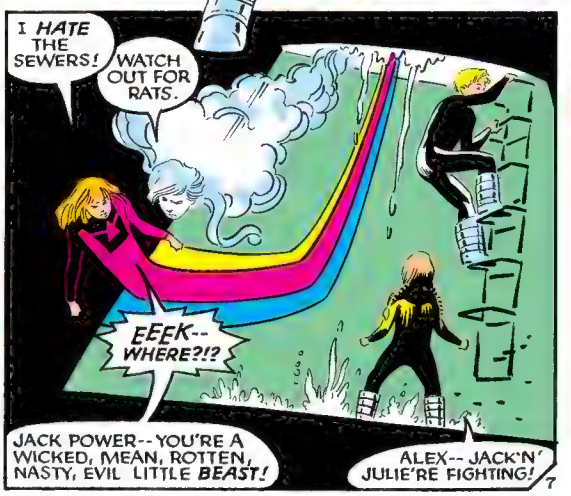
Whew!
FOR A MOMENT THERE, I WAS AFRAID NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN.
ALEX, IF OUR KYMELLIAN COSTUMES EXIST, THEN SO DOES OUR SMARTSHIP, FRIDAY!
SHE'LL HELP US!
I THOUGHT FRIDAY WAS A "HE," SIS.
BOYS DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!

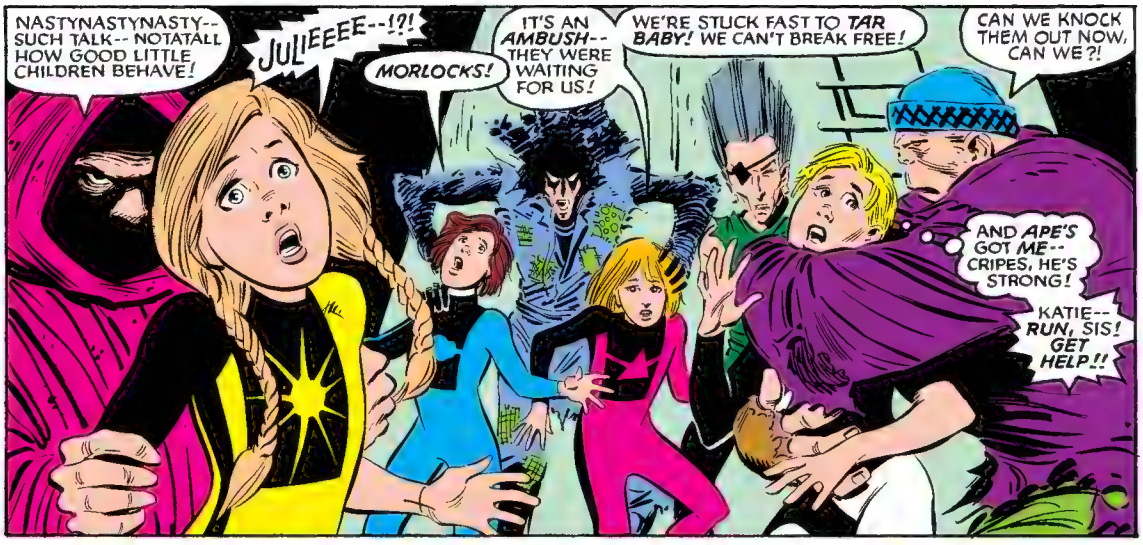
UNFORTUNATELY, JULIE'S DESPERATE CRIES GO UNANSWERED...

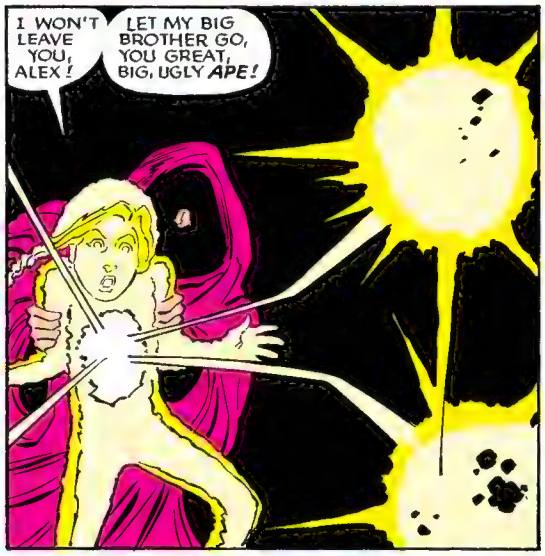

Oh, GOSH--I WASHED OUR OUTFITS AFTER OUR ADVENTURE WITH THE MORLOCKS.* DO YOU THINK I SOMEHOW BROKE THE BUILT-IN RADIOS?
AND YOU SAY BOYS DON'T KNOW ANY-THING--SHEESH!
WHAT NOW?! SUPPOSE WE CALL GRAN'PA AND HE DOESN'T KNOW US, EITHER?!
HOW COULD EVERYONE FORGET, OVERNIGHT-- IT'S LIKE SOME HORRIBLE NIGHTM--HEY!?!
REMEMBER, YOU GUYS, WE JUST MET A MORLOCK NAMED BEAUTIFUL DREAMER--
--WHOSE POWER WAS TO CHANGE PEOPLES' MEMORIES!
*PP. #'s 11&12--ANN.

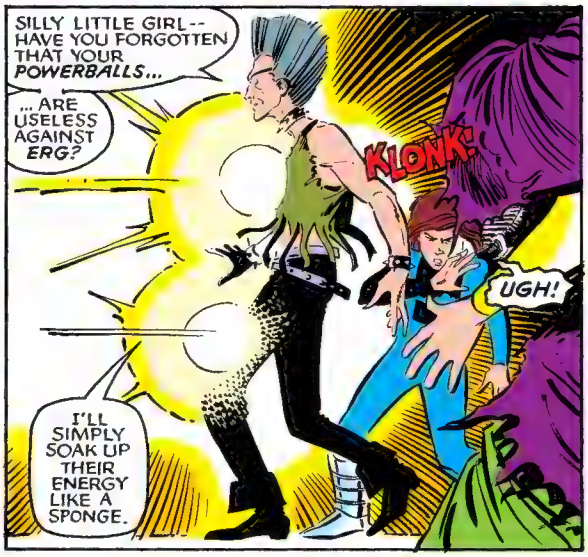

SHE WAS FRIENDS WITH THAT CREEPY OLD LADY, ANNALEE, WHO WANTED US TO LIVE WITH HER AS HER OWN KIDS!
BUT, ALEX, BOTH THE X-MEN AND CALLISTO, THE MORLOCKS' OWN LEADER, SAID SHE COULDN'T, SHE WAS TO LEAVE US ALONE!
C'MON, JULIE, DO WE ALWAYS DO EVERYTHING WE'RE TOLD?!

SHOULD WE BE DOING THIS BY OURSELVES?
THEY'RE OUR PARENTS. IT'S OUR JOB TO SAVE THEM!
BESIDES, HOW CAN WE CALL THE X-MEN--OR OUR OTHER PALS, SPIDER-MAN AND CLOAK AND DAGGER--
--WHEN WE DON'T KNOW WHERE ANY OF THEM LIVE?!

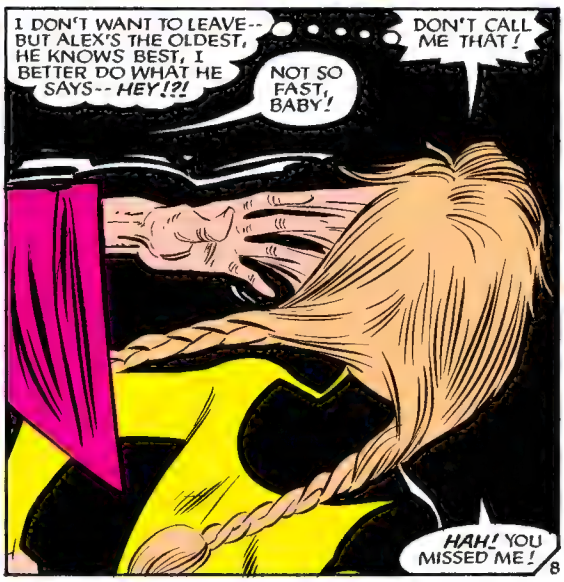

I HATE THE SEWERS!
WATCH OUT FOR RATS.
EEEK--WHERE?!?
JACK POWER--YOU'RE A WICKED, MEAN, ROTTEN, NASTY, EVIL LITTLE BEAST!
ALEX--JACK'N' JULIE'RE FIGHTING!

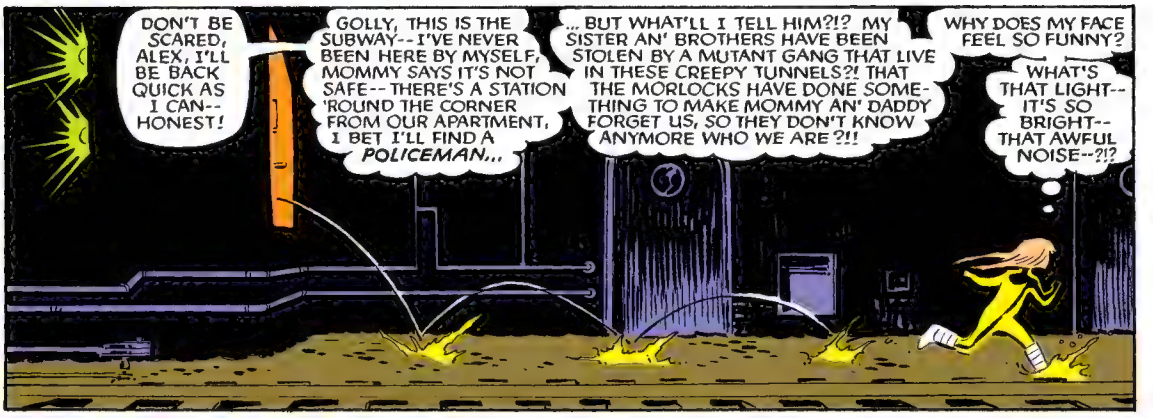

NASTYNASTYNASTY-- SUCH TALK-- NOTATALL HOW GOOD LITTLE CHILDREN BEHAVE!
JULIEEEE--!?!
MORLOCKS!
IT'S AN AMBUSH-- THEY WERE WAITING FOR US!
WE'RE STUCK FAST TO TAR BABY! WE CAN'T BREAK FREE!
CAN WE KNOCK THEM OUT NOW, CAN WE?!
AND APE'S GOT ME-- CRIPES, HE'S STRONG!
KATIE-- RUN, SIS! GET HELP!!


I WON'T LEAVE YOU, ALEX!
LET MY BIG BROTHER GO, YOU GREAT, BIG, UGLY APE!


SILLY LITTLE GIRL-- HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT YOUR POWERBALLS...
... ARE USELESS AGAINST ERG?
KLONK!
UGH!
I'LL SIMPLY SOAK UP THEIR ENERGY LIKE A SPONGE.

YOU LIARS! YOU PROMISED YOU'D LEAVE US ALONE!
OHWWW!
THERE ARE SO MANY!
STOMP!


I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE-- BUT ALEX'S THE OLDEST, HE KNOWS BEST, I BETTER DO WHAT HE SAYS-- HEY!?!
NOT SO FAST, BABY!
DON'T CALL ME THAT!
HAH! YOU MISSED ME!

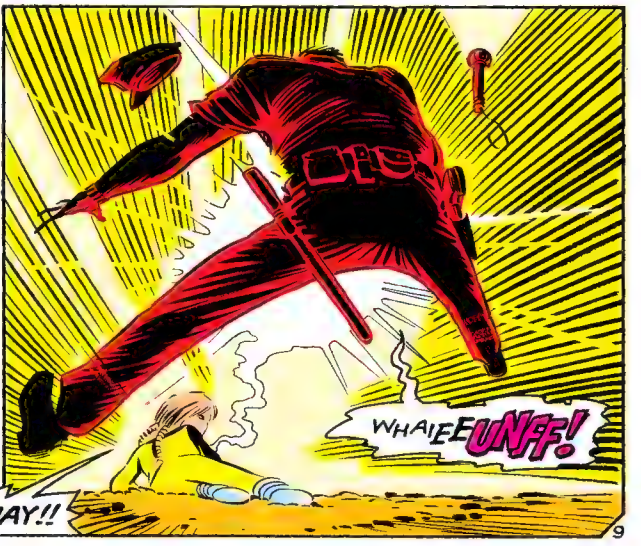

DON'T BE SCARED, ALEX, I'LL BE BACK QUICK AS I CAN-- HONEST!
GOLLY, THIS IS THE SUBWAY-- I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BY MYSELF, MOMMY SAYS IT'S NOT SAFE-- THERE'S A STATION 'ROUND THE CORNER FROM OUR APARTMENT, I BET I'LL FIND A POLICEMAN...
... BUT WHAT'LL I TELL HIM?!? MY SISTER AN' BROTHERS HAVE BEEN STOLEN BY A MUTANT GANG THAT LIVE IN THESE CREEPY TUNNELS?! THAT THE MORLOCKS HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO MAKE MOMMY AN' DADDY FORGET US, SO THEY DON'T KNOW ANYMORE WHO WE ARE?!!
WHY DOES MY FACE FEEL SO FUNNY?
WHAT'S THAT LIGHT-- IT'S SO BRIGHT-- THAT AWFUL NOISE--?!?

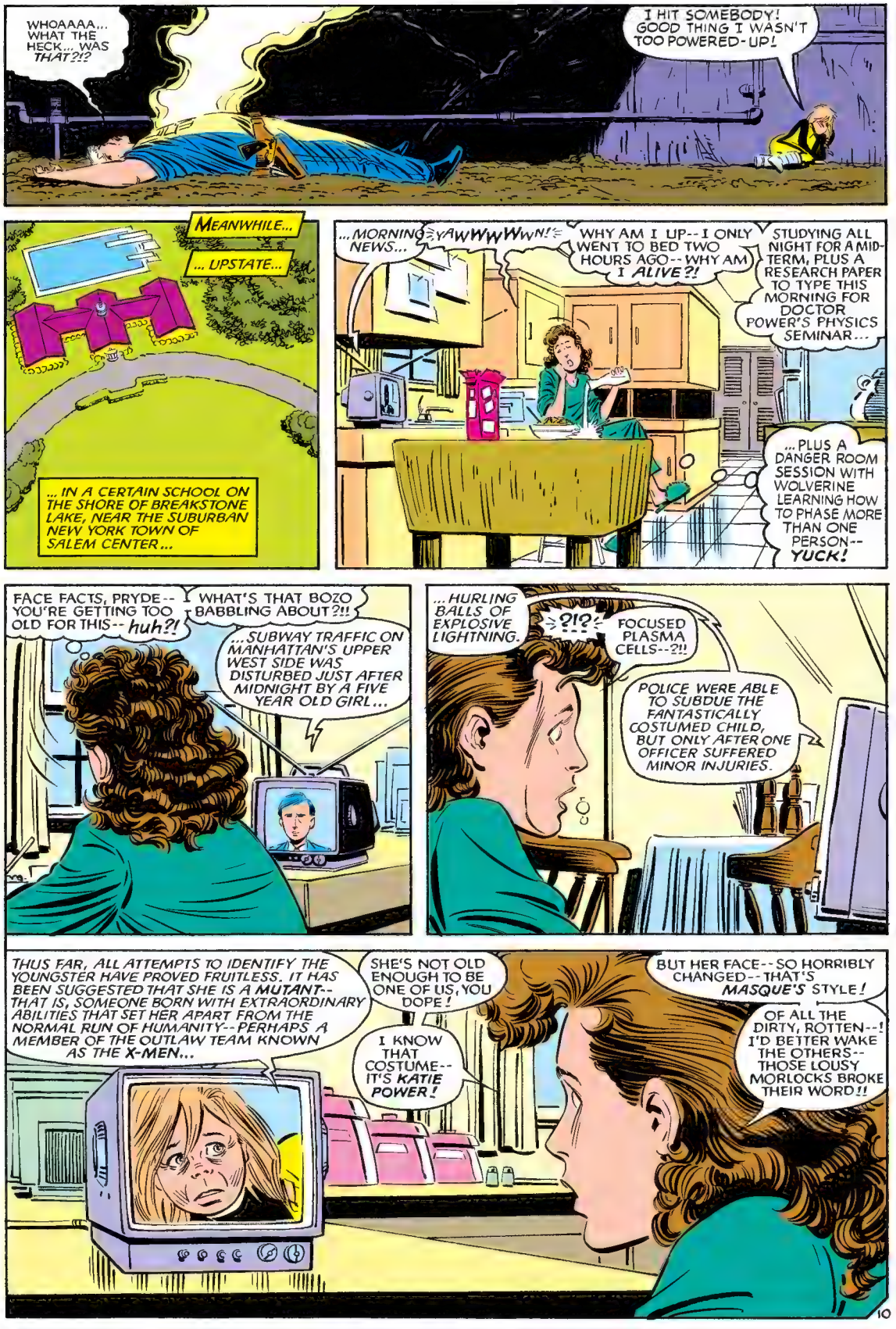
RUMBL
KLIKETY
BEEEEP

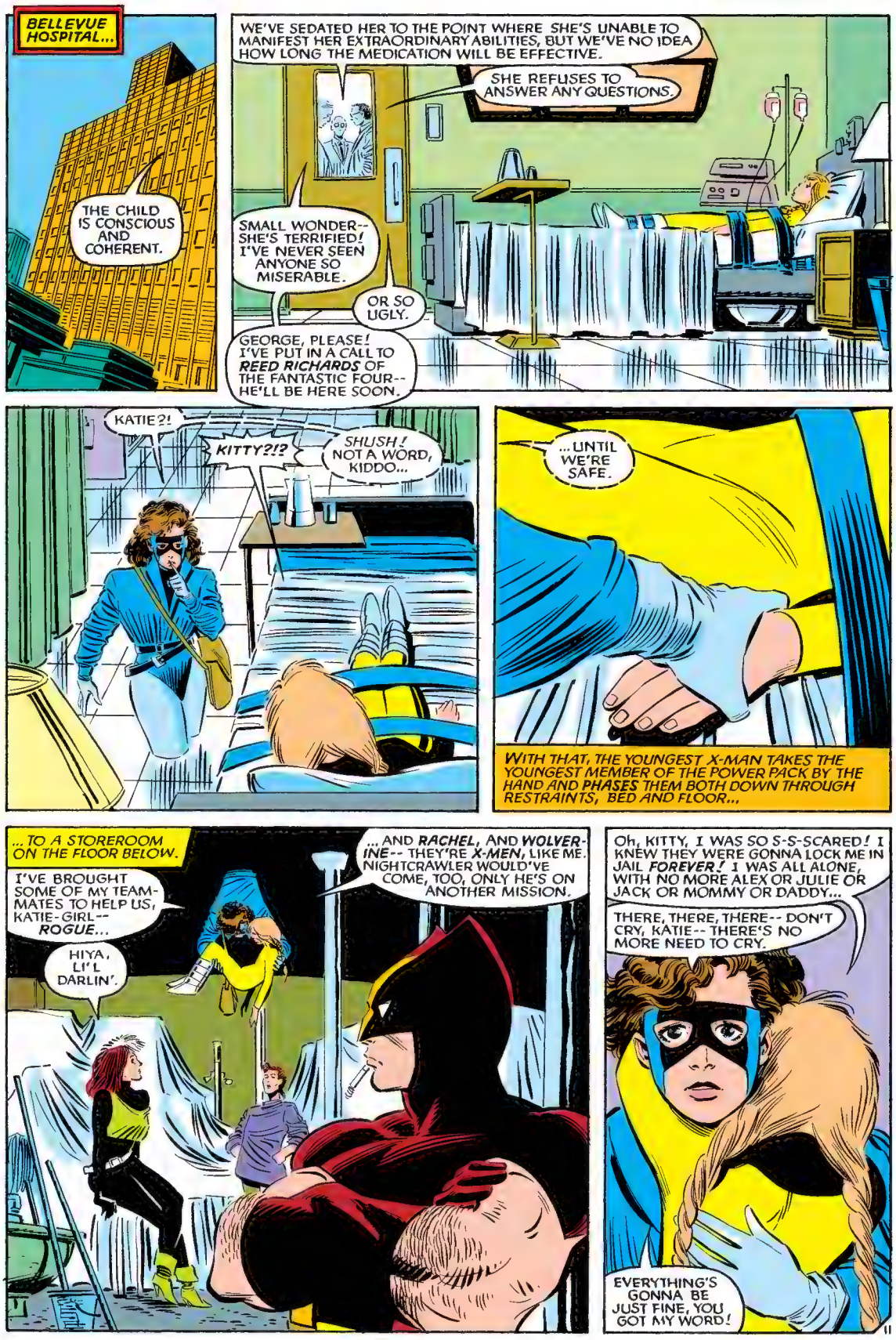
I WANT MY MOMMY! I WANT TO GO HOME!! JULIE, ALEX, JACK-- WHERE ARE YOU, DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE, FRIDAY, IT'S SO DARK AN' SQUISHY AN' I'M COLD AN' WET AN' THERE'RE RATS AN' ALLIGATORS AN' BUGS-- PLEASE, WHITEY, TAKE YOUR POWERSBACKMAKEEVERYTHINGNORMALAGAINPLEASE PLEASEPLEASE!!!

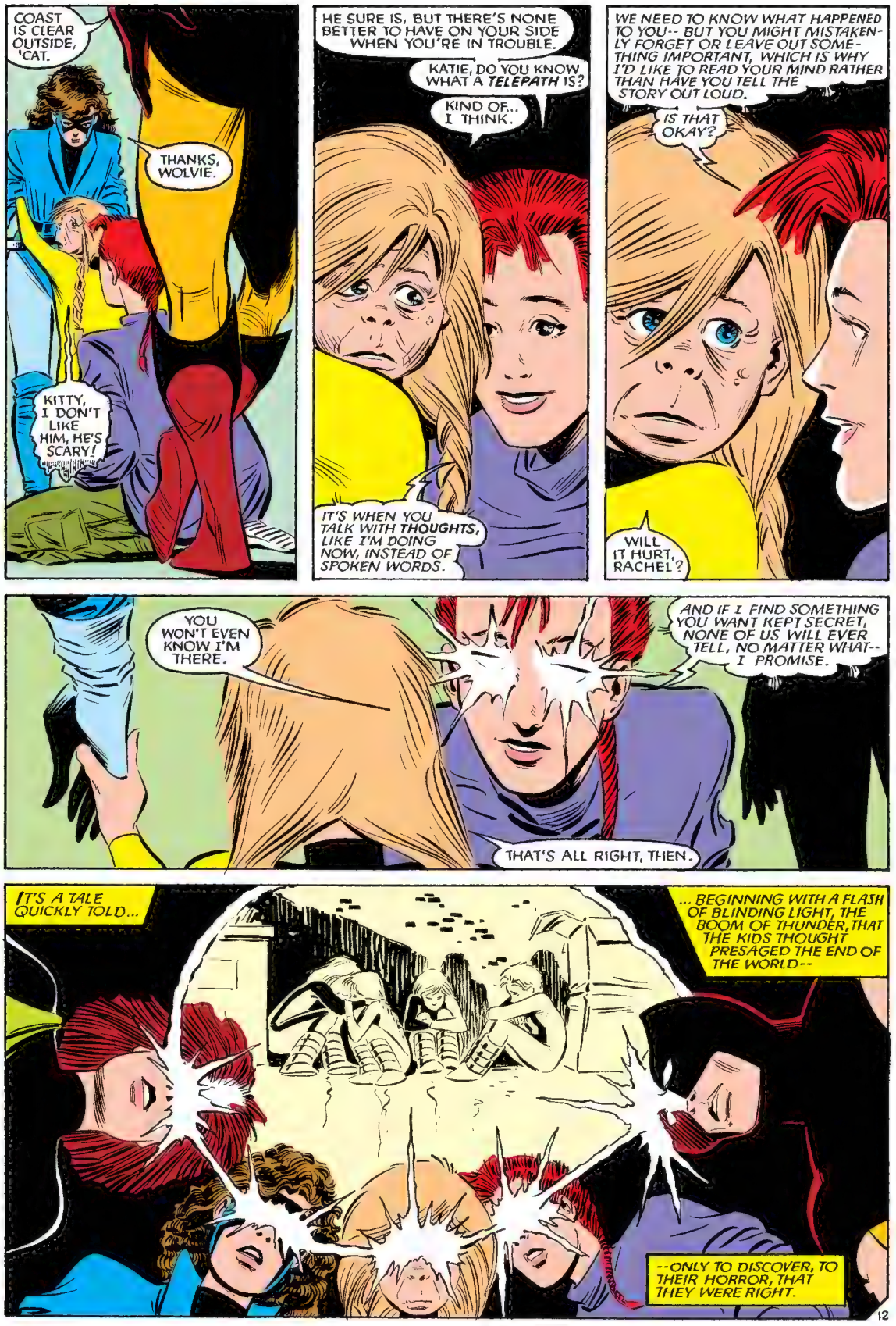
HOLY--?!
PUT IN A CALL TO EMS, ZEE-- WE NEED AN AMBULANCE-- IT'S A KID!
HOW THE BLAZES DID SHE GET IN HERE?

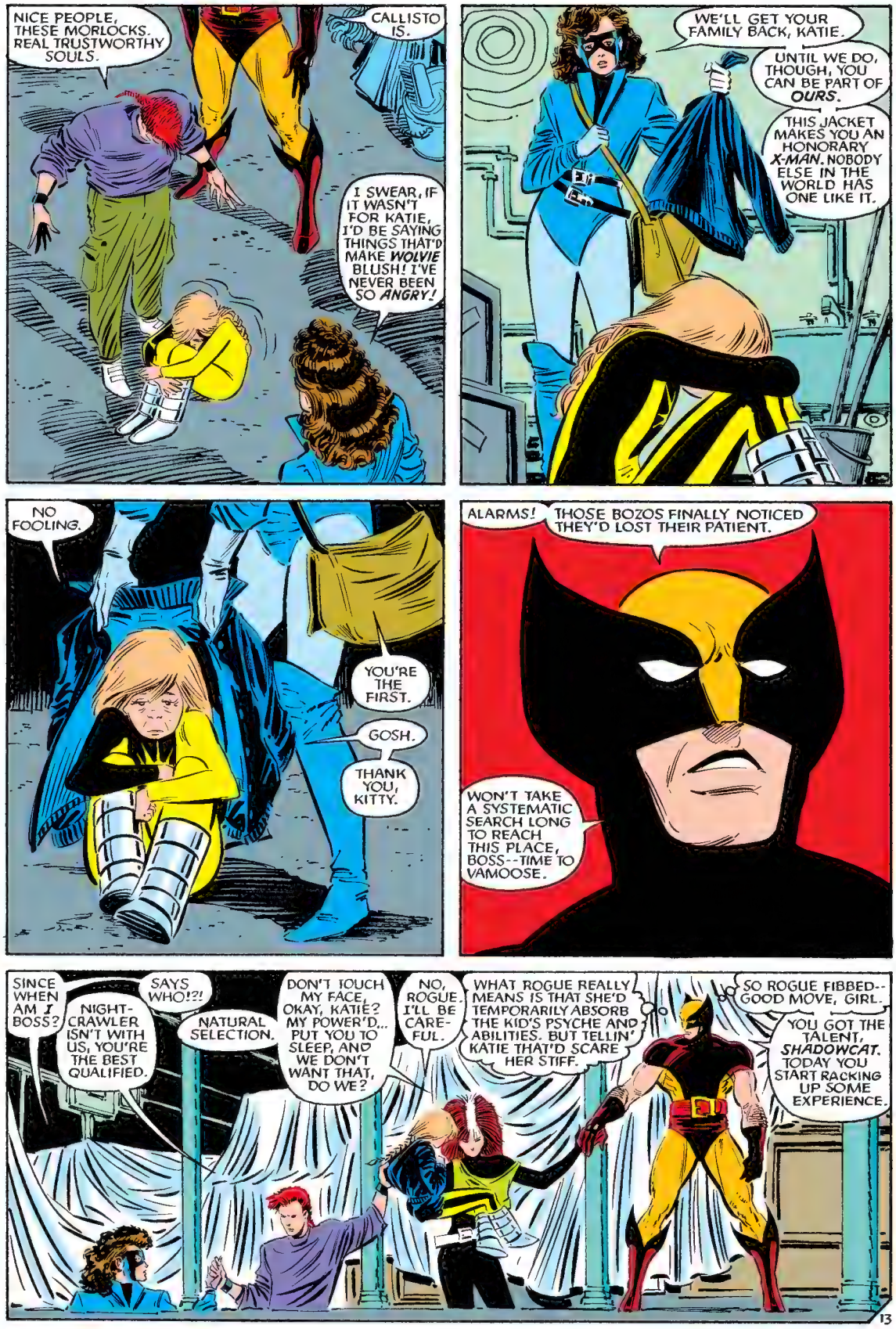
NO NEED TO CRY, LI'L DARLIN', YOU'RE SAFE NOW. NOTHIN' TO BE AFRAID OF, NO ONE TO FEAR.
I'M A POLICE OFFICER, SWEETHEART, ARE YOU HURT?

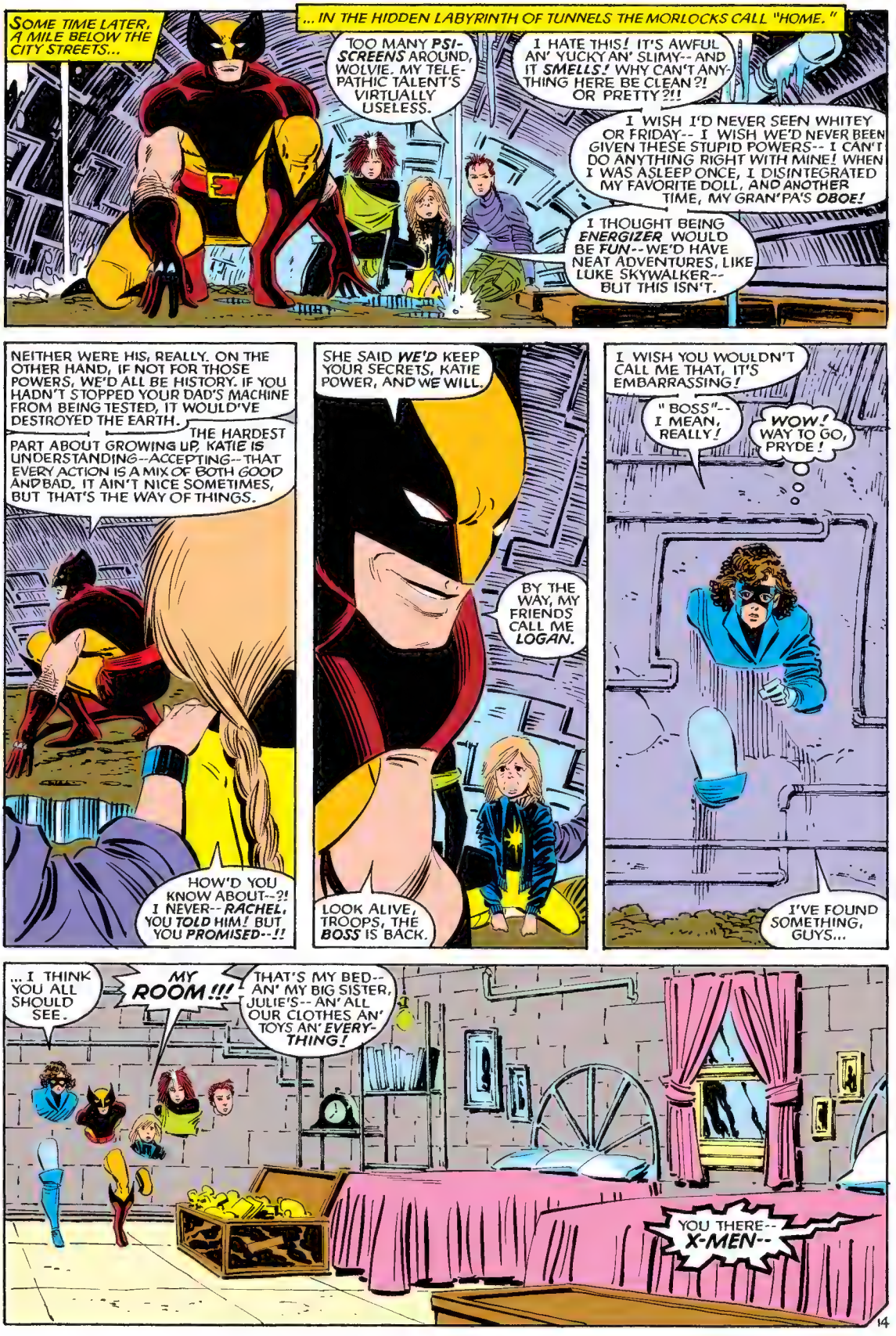

WHAIEEUNFF!
GET AWAY!!


WHOAAAA... WHAT THE HECK... WAS THAT?!?
I HIT SOMEBODY! GOOD THING I WASN'T TOO POWERED-UP!
MEANWHILE...
... UPSTATE...
... IN A CERTAIN SCHOOL ON THE SHORE OF BREAKSTONE LAKE, NEAR THE SUBURBAN NEW YORK TOWN OF SALEM CENTER...
... MORNING NEWS...
YAWWWWWN!
WHY AM I UP--I ONLY WENT TO BED TWO HOURS AGO--WHY AM I ALIVE?!
STUDYING ALL NIGHT FOR A MID-TERM, PLUS A RESEARCH PAPER TO TYPE THIS MORNING FOR DOCTOR POWER'S PHYSICS SEMINAR...
...PLUS A DANGER ROOM SESSION WITH WOLVERINE LEARNING HOW TO PHASE MORE THAN ONE PERSON--YUCK!
FACE FACTS, PRYDE--YOU'RE GETTING TOO OLD FOR THIS--huh?!
WHAT'S THAT BOZO BABBLING ABOUT?!!
...SUBWAY TRAFFIC ON MANHATTAN'S UPPER WEST SIDE WAS DISTURBED JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT BY A FIVE YEAR OLD GIRL...
...HURLING BALLS OF EXPLOSIVE LIGHTNING.
?!?
FOCUSED PLASMA CELLS--?!!
POLICE WERE ABLE TO SUBDUE THE FANTASTICALLY COSTUMED CHILD, BUT ONLY AFTER ONE OFFICER SUFFERED MINOR INJURIES.
THUS FAR, ALL ATTEMPTS TO IDENTIFY THE YOUNGSTER HAVE PROVED FRUITLESS. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT SHE IS A MUTANT--THAT IS, SOMEONE BORN WITH EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES THAT SET HER APART FROM THE NORMAL RUN OF HUMANITY--PERHAPS A MEMBER OF THE OUTLAW TEAM KNOWN AS THE X-MEN...
SHE'S NOT OLD ENOUGH TO BE ONE OF US, YOU DOPE!
I KNOW THAT COSTUME--IT'S KATIE POWER!
BUT HER FACE--SO HORRIBLY CHANGED--THAT'S MASQUE'S STYLE!
OF ALL THE DIRTY, ROTTEN--! I'D BETTER WAKE THE OTHERS--THOSE LOUSY MORLOCKS BROKE THEIR WORD!!

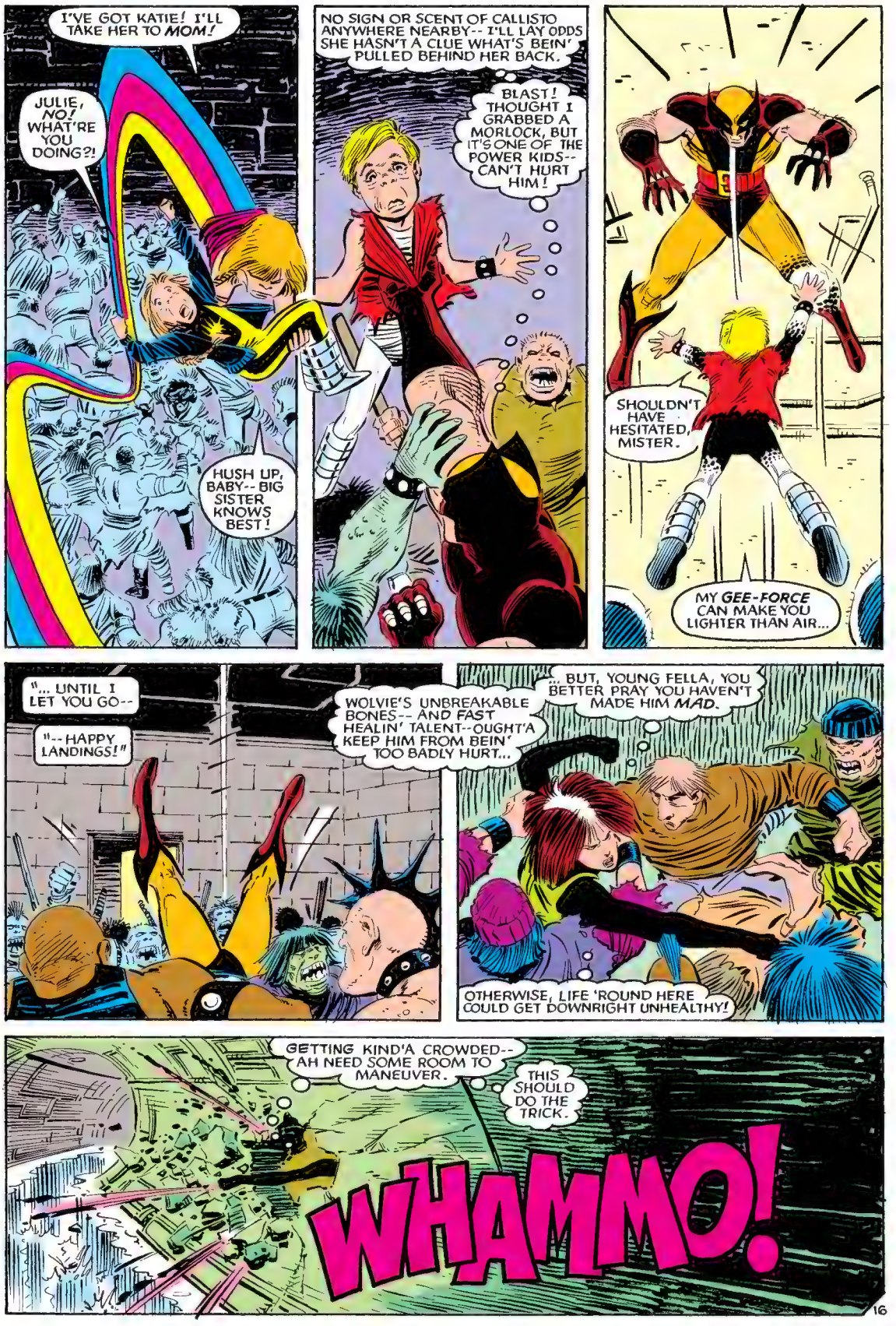

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL...
THE CHILD IS CONSCIOUS AND COHERENT.
WE'VE SEDATED HER TO THE POINT WHERE SHE'S UNABLE TO MANIFEST HER EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES, BUT WE'VE NO IDEA HOW LONG THE MEDICATION WILL BE EFFECTIVE.
SHE REFUSES TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.
SMALL WONDER-- SHE'S TERRIFIED! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SO MISERABLE.
OR SO UGLY.
GEORGE, PLEASE! I'VE PUT IN A CALL TO REED RICHARDS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR-- HE'LL BE HERE SOON.
KATIE?!
KITTY?!?
SHUSH! NOT A WORD, KIDDO...
...UNTIL WE'RE SAFE.
WITH THAT, THE YOUNGEST X-MAN TAKES THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE POWER PACK BY THE HAND AND PHASES THEM BOTH DOWN THROUGH RESTRAINTS, BED AND FLOOR...
...TO A STOREROOM ON THE FLOOR BELOW.
I'VE BROUGHT SOME OF MY TEAM-MATES TO HELP US, KATIE-GIRL-- ROGUE...
HIYA, LI'L DARLIN'.
...AND RACHEL, AND WOLVERINE-- THEY'RE X-MEN, LIKE ME. NIGHTCRAWLER WOULD'VE COME, TOO, ONLY HE'S ON ANOTHER MISSION.
Oh, KITTY, I WAS SO S-S-SCARED! I KNEW THEY WERE GONNA LOCK ME IN JAIL FOREVER! I WAS ALL ALONE, WITH NO MORE ALEX OR JULIE OR JACK OR MOMMY OR DADDY...
THERE, THERE, THERE-- DON'T CRY, KATIE-- THERE'S NO MORE NEED TO CRY.
EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE JUST FINE, YOU GOT MY WORD!

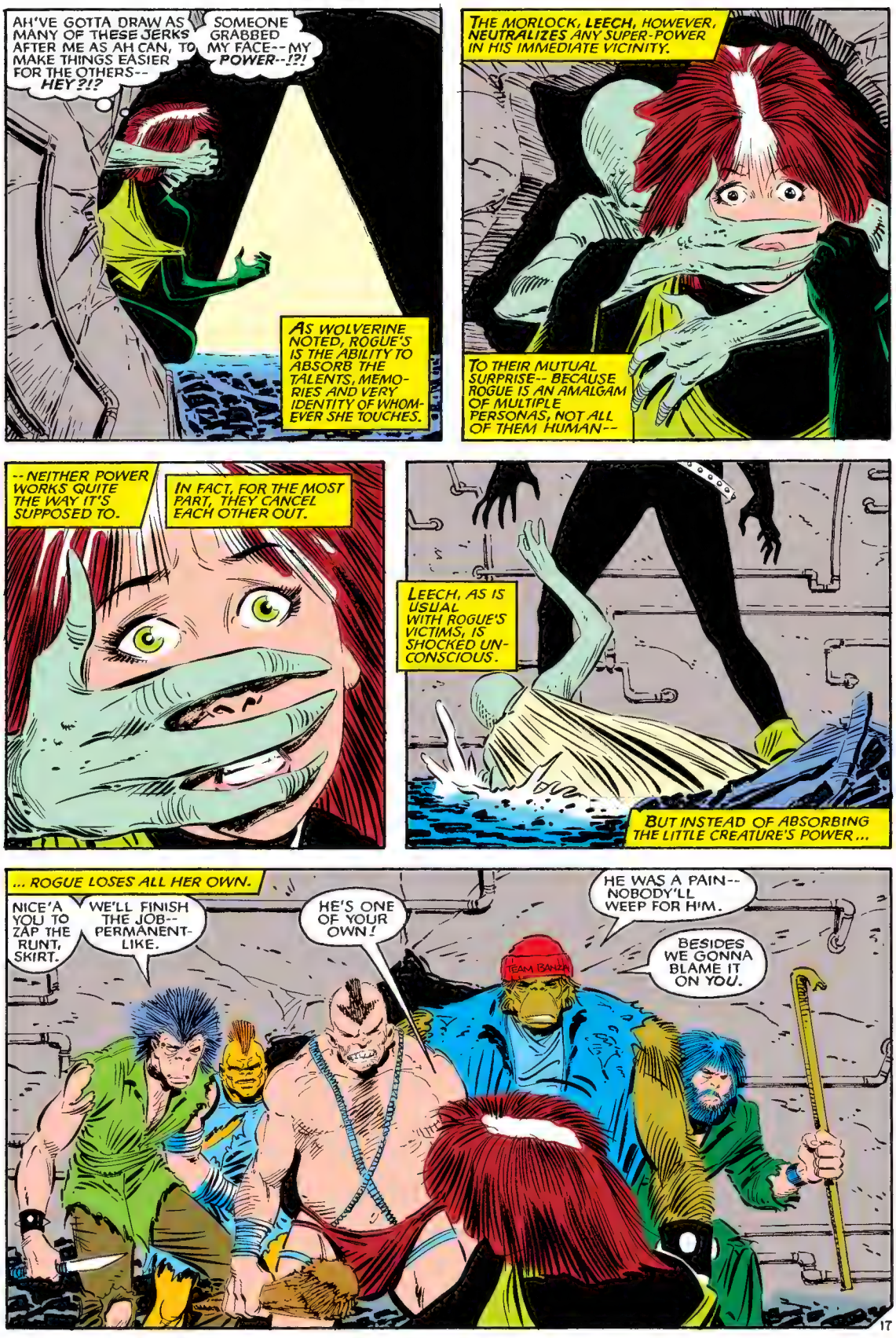

COAST IS CLEAR OUTSIDE, 'CAT.
THANKS, WOLVIE.
KITTY, I DON'T LIKE HIM, HE'S SCARY!
HE SURE IS, BUT THERE'S NONE BETTER TO HAVE ON YOUR SIDE WHEN YOU'RE IN TROUBLE.
KATIE, DO YOU KNOW WHAT A TELEPATH IS?
KIND OF... I THINK.
IT'S WHEN YOU TALK WITH THOUGHTS, LIKE I'M DOING NOW, INSTEAD OF SPOKEN WORDS.
WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU-- BUT YOU MIGHT MISTAKENLY FORGET OR LEAVE OUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT, WHICH IS WHY I'D LIKE TO READ YOUR MIND RATHER THAN HAVE YOU TELL THE STORY OUT LOUD.
IS THAT OKAY?
WILL IT HURT, RACHEL?
YOU WON'T EVEN KNOW I'M THERE.
AND IF I FIND SOMETHING YOU WANT KEPT SECRET, NONE OF US WILL EVER TELL, NO MATTER WHAT-- I PROMISE.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, THEN.
IT'S A TALE QUICKLY TOLD...
...BEGINNING WITH A FLASH OF BLINDING LIGHT, THE BOOM OF THUNDER, THAT THE KIDS THOUGHT PRESAGED THE END OF THE WORLD--
--ONLY TO DISCOVER, TO THEIR HORROR, THAT THEY WERE RIGHT.


NICE PEOPLE, THESE MORLOCKS. REAL TRUSTWORTHY SOULS.
CALLISTO IS.
I SWEAR, IF IT WASN'T FOR KATIE, I'D BE SAYING THINGS THAT'D MAKE WOLVIE BLUSH! I'VE NEVER BEEN SO ANGRY!
WE'LL GET YOUR FAMILY BACK, KATIE.
UNTIL WE DO, THOUGH, YOU CAN BE PART OF OURS.
THIS JACKET MAKES YOU AN HONORARY X-MAN. NOBODY ELSE IN THE WORLD HAS ONE LIKE IT.
NO FOOLING.
YOU'RE THE FIRST.
GOSH.
THANK YOU, KITTY.
ALARMS!
THOSE BOZOS FINALLY NOTICED THEY'D LOST THEIR PATIENT.
WON'T TAKE A SYSTEMATIC SEARCH LONG TO REACH THIS PLACE, BOSS--TIME TO VAMOOSE.
SINCE WHEN AM I BOSS?
NIGHT-CRAWLER ISN'T WITH US, YOU'RE THE BEST QUALIFIED.
SAYS WHO!?!
NATURAL SELECTION.
DON'T TOUCH MY FACE, OKAY, KATIE? MY POWER'D... PUT YOU TO SLEEP, AND WE DON'T WANT THAT, DO WE?
NO, ROGUE. I'LL BE CARE-FUL.
WHAT ROGUE REALLY MEANS IS THAT SHE'D TEMPORARILY ABSORB THE KID'S PSYCHE AND ABILITIES. BUT TELLIN' KATIE THAT'D SCARE HER STIFF.
SO ROGUE FIBBED--GOOD MOVE, GIRL.
YOU GOT THE TALENT, SHADOWCAT. TODAY YOU START RACKING UP SOME EXPERIENCE.

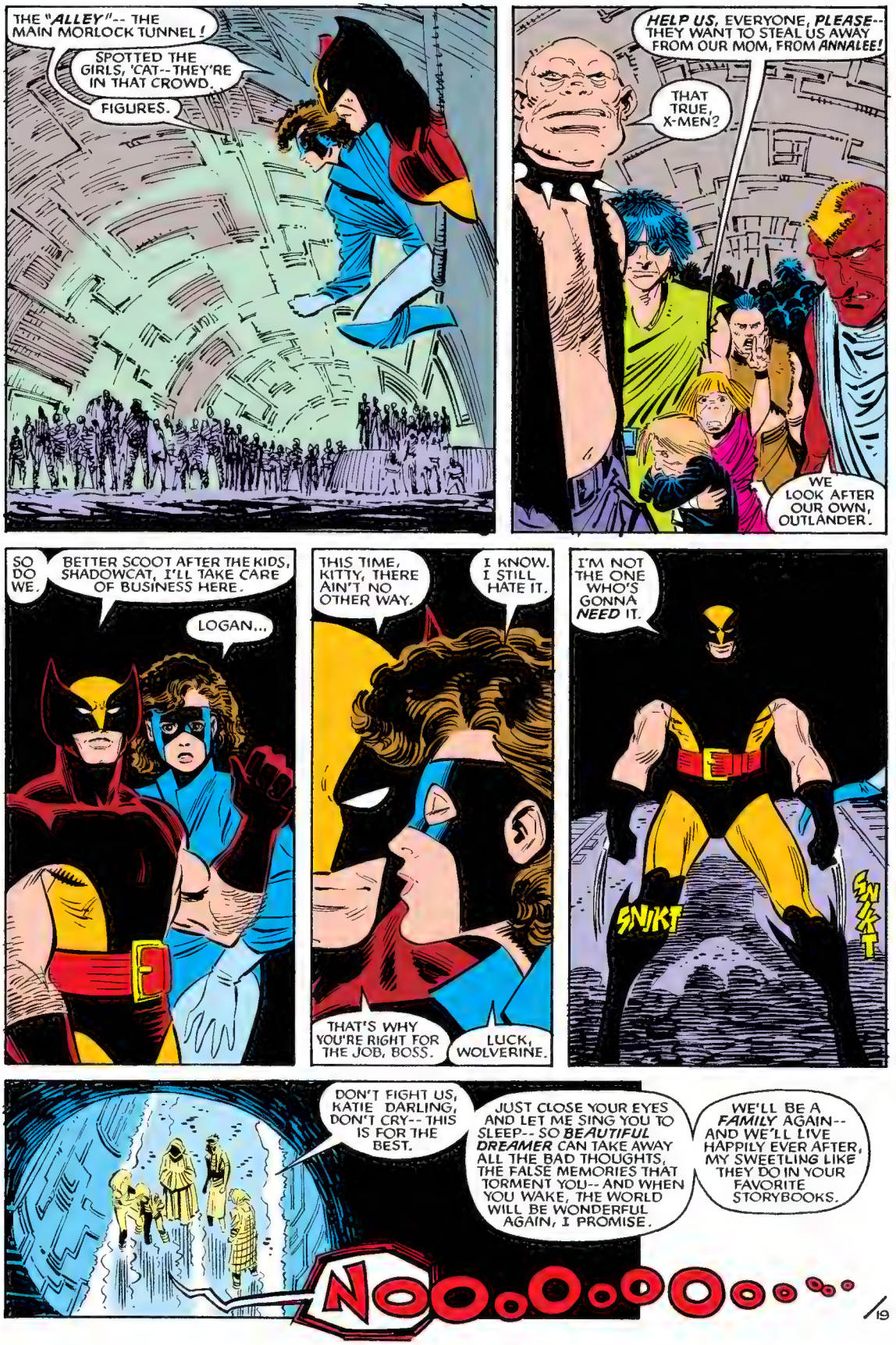

SOME TIME LATER, A MILE BELOW THE CITY STREETS...
... IN THE HIDDEN LABYRINTH OF TUNNELS THE MORLOCKS CALL "HOME."
TOO MANY PSI-SCREENS AROUND, WOLVIE. MY TELEPATHIC TALENT'S VIRTUALLY USELESS.
I HATE THIS! IT'S AWFUL AN' YUCKY AN' SLIMY-- AND IT SMELLS! WHY CAN'T ANYTHING HERE BE CLEAN?! OR PRETTY?!!
I WISH I'D NEVER SEEN WHITEY OR FRIDAY-- I WISH WE'D NEVER BEEN GIVEN THESE STUPID POWERS-- I CAN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT WITH MINE! WHEN I WAS ASLEEP ONCE, I DISINTEGRATED MY FAVORITE DOLL, AND ANOTHER TIME, MY GRAN'PA'S OBOE!
I THOUGHT BEING ENERGIZER WOULD BE FUN-- WE'D HAVE NEAT ADVENTURES, LIKE LUKE SKYWALKER-- BUT THIS ISN'T.
NEITHER WERE HIS, REALLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF NOT FOR THOSE POWERS, WE'D ALL BE HISTORY. IF YOU HADN'T STOPPED YOUR DAD'S MACHINE FROM BEING TESTED, IT WOULD'VE DESTROYED THE EARTH.
THE HARDEST PART ABOUT GROWING UP, KATIE IS UNDERSTANDING--ACCEPTING-- THAT EVERY ACTION IS A MIX OF BOTH GOOD AND BAD. IT AIN'T NICE SOMETIMES, BUT THAT'S THE WAY OF THINGS.
HOW'D YOU KNOW ABOUT--?! I NEVER-- RACHEL, YOU TOLD HIM! BUT YOU PROMISED--!!
SHE SAID WE'D KEEP YOUR SECRETS, KATIE POWER, AND WE WILL.
BY THE WAY, MY FRIENDS CALL ME LOGAN.
LOOK ALIVE, TROOPS, THE BOSS IS BACK.
I WISH YOU WOULDN'T CALL ME THAT, IT'S EMBARRASSING!
"BOSS"-- I MEAN, REALLY!
WOW! WAY TO GO, PRYDE!
I'VE FOUND SOMETHING, GUYS...
... I THINK YOU ALL SHOULD SEE.
MY ROOM!!!
THAT'S MY BED-- AN' MY BIG SISTER, JULIE'S-- AN' ALL OUR CLOTHES AN' TOYS AN' EVERYTHING!
YOU THERE-- X-MEN--

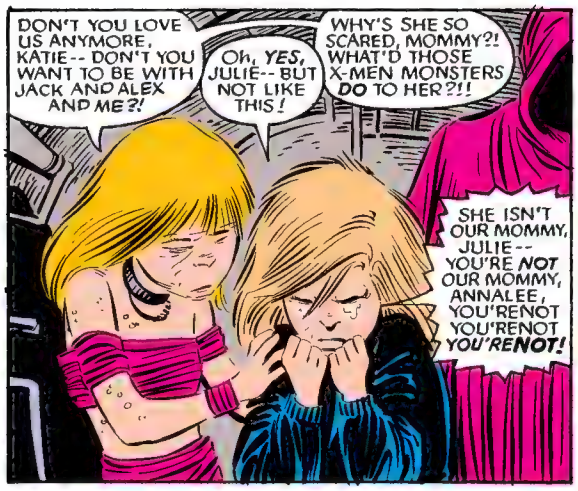
--WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY CHILDREN'S ROOM?!
NO MORE GAMES, ANNALEE-- NO MORE LIES-- WE'VE COME FOR THE POWER KIDS.
THEY'RE RIGHT IN FRONT OF US, 'CAT. MASQUE MAY'VE CHANGED THEIR FACES BUT SHE CAN'T DISGUISE THEIR UNIQUE SCENT-- AT LEAST, TO MY ENHANCED SENSES--
--THESE THREE MATCH KATIE. THEY'RE FAMILY.
OF COURSE THEY ARE-- MY FAMILY.
I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR RETURNING MY WAYWARD DAUGHTER TO ME, WE'VE MISSED HER SO.
HERE, KATIE, COME TO MOTHER.
SHUT UP! YOU'RE NOT MY MOTHER!!
Oh, GOLLY! I POWERED UP WHILE WE WERE WAITING, BY DISINTEGRATING THAT YUCKY SEWER WATER, BUT I DIDN'T MEAN TO FIRE ANY POWERBALLS! I GOT TOO UPSET, I DIDN'T THINK--!
JACK, ALEX, JULIE-- DUCK!!!
BADA-
BOOM!
Uh-oh!
ATTACK OUR MOM, WILLYA--
--GET 'EM!!

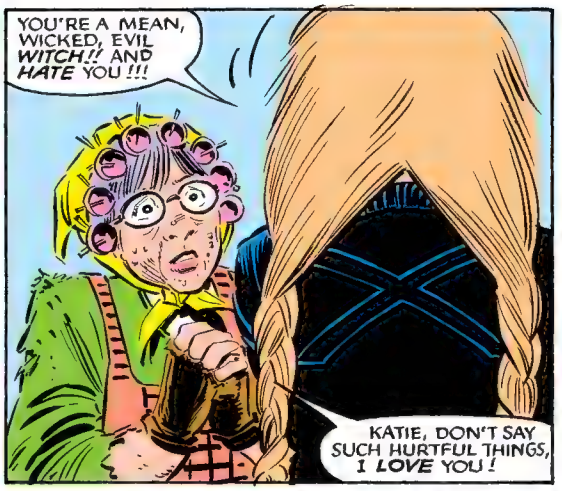

I'VE GOT KATIE! I'LL TAKE HER TO MOM!
JULIE, NO! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
HUSH UP, BABY-- BIG SISTER KNOWS BEST!
NO SIGN OR SCENT OF CALLISTO ANYWHERE NEARBY-- I'LL LAY ODDS SHE HASN'T A CLUE WHAT'S BEIN' PULLED BEHIND HER BACK.
BLAST! THOUGHT I GRABBED A MORLOCK, BUT IT'S ONE OF THE POWER KIDS-- CAN'T HURT HIM!
SHOULDN'T HAVE HESITATED, MISTER.
MY GEE-FORCE CAN MAKE YOU LIGHTER THAN AIR...
"... UNTIL I LET YOU GO--
"-- HAPPY LANDINGS!"
WOLVIE'S UNBREAKABLE BONES-- AND FAST HEALIN' TALENT--OUGHT'A KEEP HIM FROM BEIN' TOO BADLY HURT...
"... BUT, YOUNG FELLA, YOU BETTER PRAY YOU HAVEN'T MADE HIM MAD.
OTHERWISE, LIFE 'ROUND HERE COULD GET DOWNRIGHT UNHEALTHY!
GETTING KIND'A CROWDED-- AH NEED SOME ROOM TO MANEUVER.
THIS SHOULD DO THE TRICK.
WHAMMO!

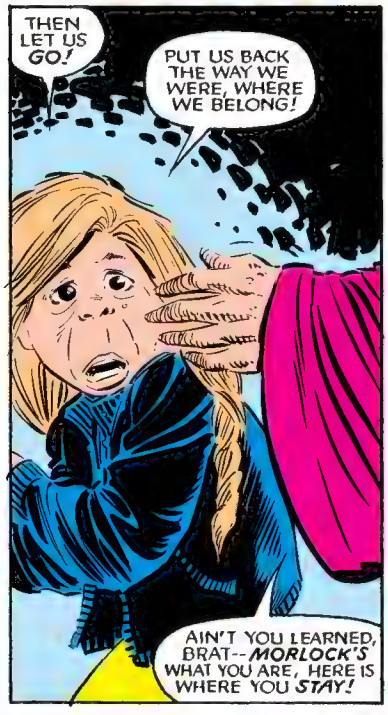

AH'VE GOTTA DRAW AS MANY OF THESE JERKS AFTER ME AS AH CAN, TO MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR THE OTHERS-- HEY?!?
SOMEONE GRABBED MY FACE--MY POWER--!?!
AS WOLVERINE NOTED, ROGUE'S IS THE ABILITY TO ABSORB THE TALENTS, MEMORIES AND VERY IDENTITY OF WHOMEVER SHE TOUCHES.
THE MORLOCK, LEECH, HOWEVER, NEUTRALIZES ANY SUPER-POWER IN HIS IMMEDIATE VICINITY.
TO THEIR MUTUAL SURPRISE-- BECAUSE ROGUE IS AN AMALGAM OF MULTIPLE PERSONAS, NOT ALL OF THEM HUMAN--
-- NEITHER POWER WORKS QUITE THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO.
IN FACT, FOR THE MOST PART, THEY CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT.
LEECH, AS IS USUAL WITH ROGUE'S VICTIMS, IS SHOCKED UNCONSCIOUS.
BUT INSTEAD OF ABSORBING THE LITTLE CREATURE'S POWER...
... ROGUE LOSES ALL HER OWN.
NICE'A YOU TO ZAP THE RUNT, SKIRT.
WE'LL FINISH THE JOB-- PERMANENT-LIKE.
HE'S ONE OF YOUR OWN!
HE WAS A PAIN-- NOBODY'LL WEEP FOR HIM.
BESIDES WE GONNA BLAME IT ON YOU.
TEAM BANZAI

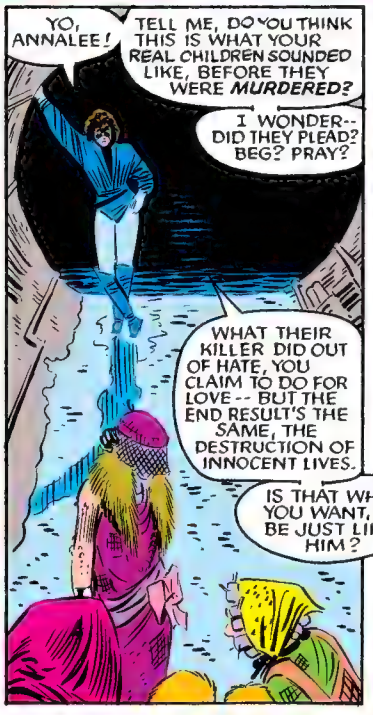
NOBODY FRAMES ME, SUCKER!
CHUNT!
AH GOT NO MORE STRENGTH THAN A NORMAL WOMAN.
TUNCH!
TUNCH
SPAK!
BUT AH KNOW HOW TO *USE* IT!
ALL AH GOTTA DO IS KEEP BREATHIN' TILL THIS WEIRD EFFECT WEARS OFF-- THEN AH'LL *REALLY* MAKE THE PROVERBIAL FUR FLY.
SUPPOSE IT *DON'T*, THOUGH-- WHAT THE HECK DO AH DO THEN?!
SWAK!
TOO MANY TO PLAY BY NICE-GUY RULES, 'CAT.
NO CLAWS, WOLVIE--MORLOCKS AND X-MEN ARE FRIENDS!
SPLAT!
TELL THEM THAT.
SO LONG AS I CAN *PHASE* US OUT OF TROUBLE, PARTNER...
...WE CAN AFFORD TO BE MERCIFUL.

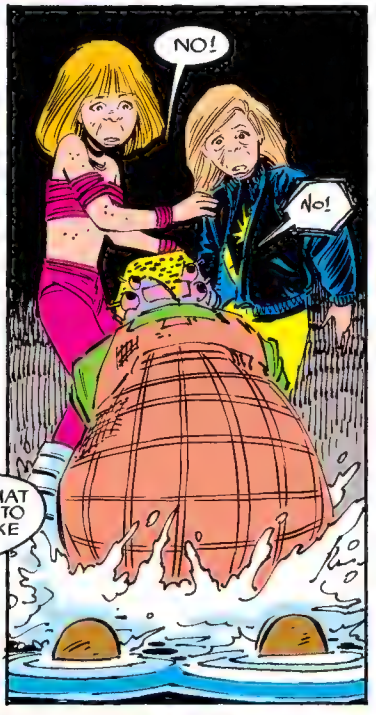

THE "ALLEY"-- THE MAIN MORLOCK TUNNEL!
SPOTTED THE GIRLS, 'CAT--THEY'RE IN THAT CROWD.
FIGURES.
HELP US, EVERYONE, PLEASE-- THEY WANT TO STEAL US AWAY FROM OUR MOM, FROM ANNALEE!
THAT TRUE, X-MEN?
WE LOOK AFTER OUR OWN, OUTLANDER.
SO DO WE.
BETTER SCOOT AFTER THE KIDS, SHADOWCAT, I'LL TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS HERE.
LOGAN...
THIS TIME, KITTY, THERE AIN'T NO OTHER WAY.
I KNOW. I STILL HATE IT.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE RIGHT FOR THE JOB, BOSS.
LUCK, WOLVERINE.
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO'S GONNA NEED IT.
SNIKT
SNIKT
DON'T FIGHT US, KATIE DARLING, DON'T CRY-- THIS IS FOR THE BEST.
JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES AND LET ME SING YOU TO SLEEP-- SO BEAUTIFUL DREAMER CAN TAKE AWAY ALL THE BAD THOUGHTS, THE FALSE MEMORIES THAT TORMENT YOU-- AND WHEN YOU WAKE, THE WORLD WILL BE WONDERFUL AGAIN, I PROMISE.
WE'LL BE A FAMILY AGAIN-- AND WE'LL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER, MY SWEETLING LIKE THEY DO IN YOUR FAVORITE STORYBOOKS.
NOOOOOOOOOO


DON'T YOU LOVE US ANYMORE, KATIE-- DON'T YOU WANT TO BE WITH JACK AND ALEX AND ME?!
Oh, YES, JULIE-- BUT NOT LIKE THIS!
WHY'S SHE SO SCARED, MOMMY?! WHAT'D THOSE X-MEN MONSTERS DO TO HER?!!
SHE ISN'T OUR MOMMY, JULIE-- YOU'RE NOT OUR MOMMY, ANNALEE, YOU'RENOT YOU'RENOT YOU'RENOT!


YOU'RE A MEAN, WICKED, EVIL WITCH!! AND HATE YOU!!!
KATIE, DON'T SAY SUCH HURTFUL THINGS, I LOVE YOU!

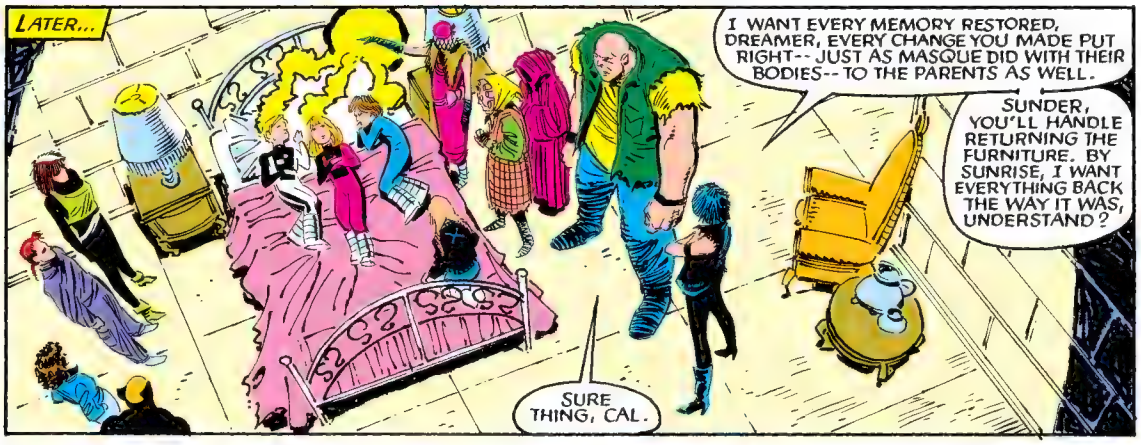

THEN LET US GO!
PUT US BACK THE WAY WE WERE, WHERE WE BELONG!
AIN'T YOU LEARNED, BRAT--MORLOCK'S WHAT YOU ARE, HERE IS WHERE YOU STAY!


YO, ANNALEE!
TELL ME, DO YOU THINK THIS IS WHAT YOUR REAL CHILDREN SOUNDED LIKE, BEFORE THEY WERE MURDERED?
I WONDER-- DID THEY PLEAD? BEG? PRAY?
WHAT THEIR KILLER DID OUT OF HATE, YOU CLAIM TO DO FOR LOVE -- BUT THE END RESULT'S THE SAME, THE DESTRUCTION OF INNOCENT LIVES.
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT, TO BE JUST LIKE HIM?

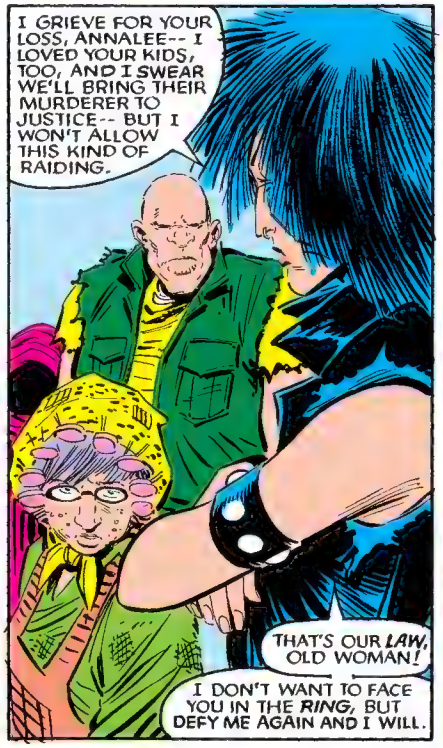

NO!
No!

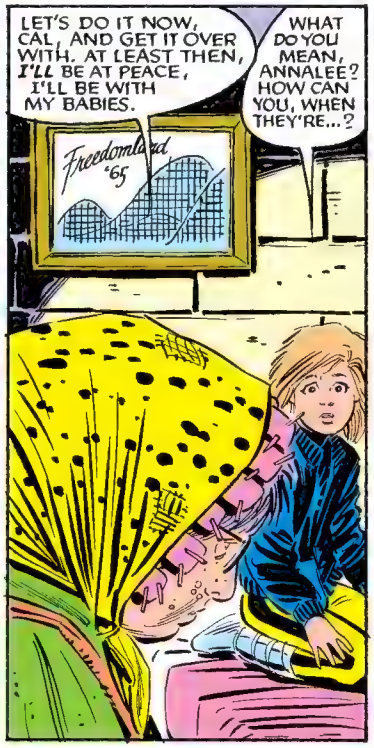
AIN'T NOBODY DYING HERE X-GIRLIE--EXCEPTING MAYBE YOU!
I'M FINISHING WHAT I STARTED-- AND THERE AIN'T A THING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME!

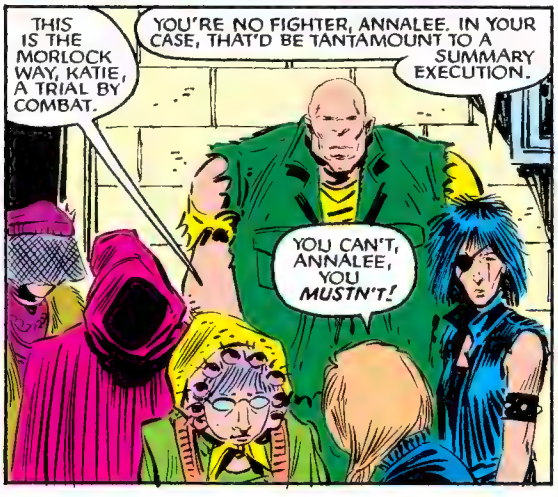
MASQUE!
CALLISTO!
I HOPE, FOR YOUR SAKE, YOU HAVE A REAL GOOD EXPLANATION FOR THIS.

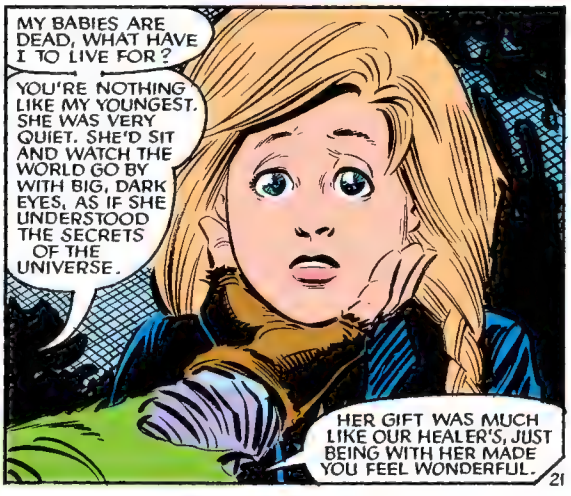

LATER...
I WANT EVERY MEMORY RESTORED, DREAMER, EVERY CHANGE YOU MADE PUT RIGHT-- JUST AS MASQUE DID WITH THEIR BODIES-- TO THE PARENTS AS WELL.
SUNDER, YOU'LL HANDLE RETURNING THE FURNITURE. BY SUNRISE, I WANT EVERYTHING BACK THE WAY IT WAS, UNDERSTAND?
SURE THING, CAL.

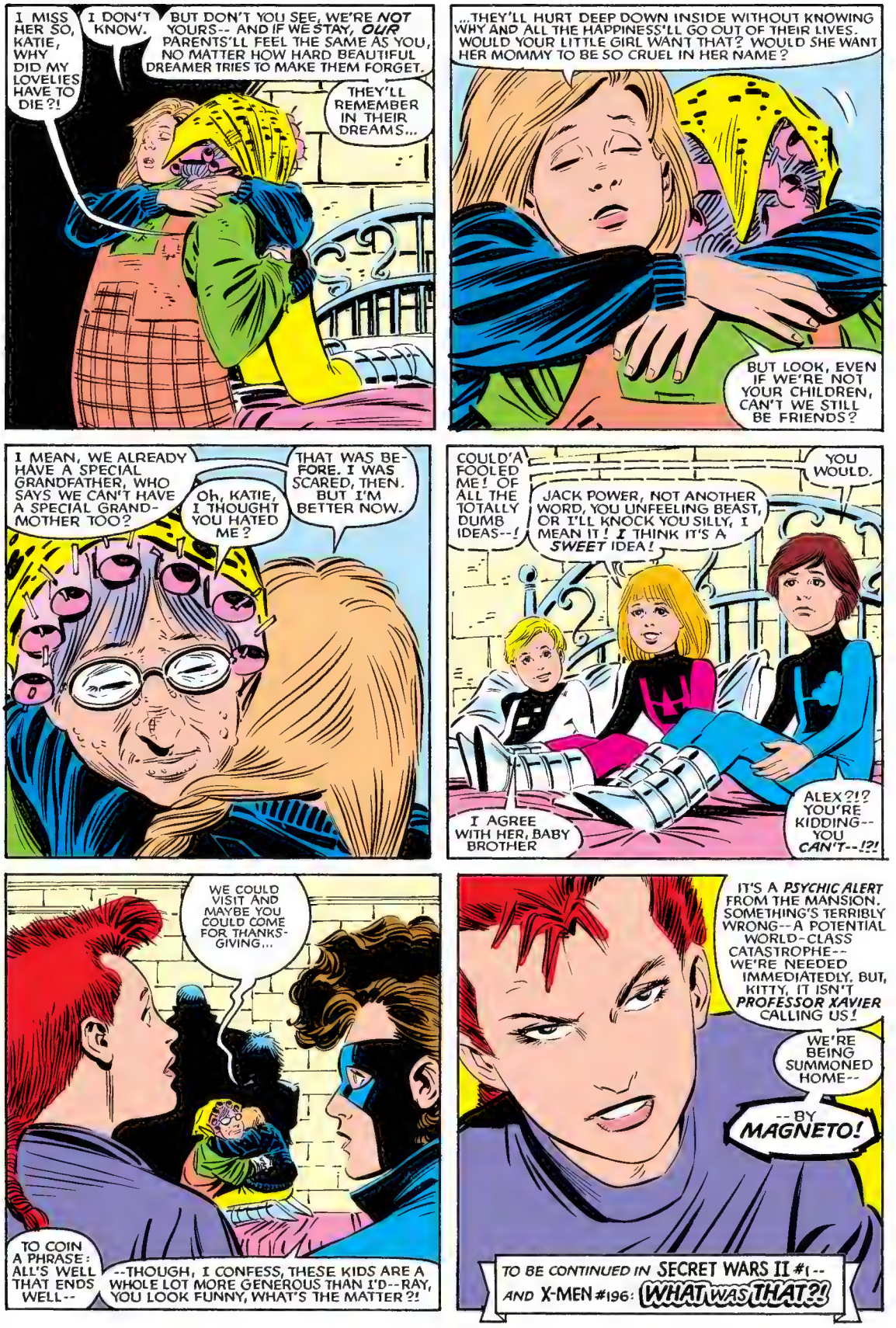
AND FURTHERMORE, SINCE I EVIDENTLY DIDN'T MAKE MYSELF CLEAR LAST TIME, I'LL SAY IT PLAIN AS CAN BE--
--THESE CHILDREN ARE TO BE LEFT IN PEACE. THEY'RE FRIENDS, LIKE THE X-MEN-- THEY'RE OFF-LIMITS!


I GRIEVE FOR YOUR LOSS, ANNALEE-- I LOVED YOUR KIDS, TOO, AND I SWEAR WE'LL BRING THEIR MURDERER TO JUSTICE-- BUT I WON'T ALLOW THIS KIND OF RAIDING.
THAT'S OUR LAW, OLD WOMAN!
I DON'T WANT TO FACE YOU IN THE RING, BUT DEFY ME AGAIN AND I WILL.


LET'S DO IT NOW, CAL, AND GET IT OVER WITH. AT LEAST THEN, I'LL BE AT PEACE, I'LL BE WITH MY BABIES.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ANNALEE? HOW CAN YOU, WHEN THEY'RE...?
Freedomland '65


THIS IS THE MORLOCK WAY, KATIE, A TRIAL BY COMBAT.
YOU'RE NO FIGHTER, ANNALEE. IN YOUR CASE, THAT'D BE TANTAMOUNT TO A SUMMARY EXECUTION.
YOU CAN'T, ANNALEE, YOU MUSTN'T!


MY BABIES ARE DEAD, WHAT HAVE I TO LIVE FOR?
YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE MY YOUNGEST. SHE WAS VERY QUIET. SHE'D SIT AND WATCH THE WORLD GO BY WITH BIG, DARK EYES, AS IF SHE UNDERSTOOD THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE.
HER GIFT WAS MUCH LIKE OUR HEALER'S, JUST BEING WITH HER MADE YOU FEEL WONDERFUL.


I MISS HER SO, KATIE, WHY DID MY LOVELIES HAVE TO DIE?!
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT DON'T YOU SEE, WE'RE NOT YOURS-- AND IF WE STAY, OUR PARENTS'LL FEEL THE SAME AS YOU, NO MATTER HOW HARD BEAUTIFUL DREAMER TRIES TO MAKE THEM FORGET.
THEY'LL REMEMBER IN THEIR DREAMS...
...THEY'LL HURT DEEP DOWN INSIDE WITHOUT KNOWING WHY AND ALL THE HAPPINESS'LL GO OUT OF THEIR LIVES. WOULD YOUR LITTLE GIRL WANT THAT? WOULD SHE WANT HER MOMMY TO BE SO CRUEL IN HER NAME?
BUT LOOK, EVEN IF WE'RE NOT YOUR CHILDREN, CAN'T WE STILL BE FRIENDS?
I MEAN, WE ALREADY HAVE A SPECIAL GRANDFATHER, WHO SAYS WE CAN'T HAVE A SPECIAL GRAND-MOTHER TOO?
Oh, KATIE, I THOUGHT YOU HATED ME?
THAT WAS BE-FORE. I WAS SCARED, THEN. BUT I'M BETTER NOW.
COULD'A FOOLED ME! OF ALL THE TOTALLY DUMB IDEAS--!
JACK POWER, NOT ANOTHER WORD, YOU UNFEELING BEAST, OR I'LL KNOCK YOU SILLY, I MEAN IT! I THINK IT'S A SWEET IDEA!
YOU WOULD.
I AGREE WITH HER, BABY BROTHER
ALEX?!? YOU'RE KIDDING-- YOU CAN'T--!?!
WE COULD VISIT AND MAYBE YOU COULD COME FOR THANKS-GIVING...
TO COIN A PHRASE: ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL--
--THOUGH, I CONFESS, THESE KIDS ARE A WHOLE LOT MORE GENEROUS THAN I'D--RAY, YOU LOOK FUNNY, WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
IT'S A PSYCHIC ALERT FROM THE MANSION. SOMETHING'S TERRIBLY WRONG--A POTENTIAL WORLD-CLASS CATASTROPHE-- WE'RE NEEDED IMMEDIATELY. BUT, KITTY, IT ISN'T PROFESSOR XAVIER CALLING US!
WE'RE BEING SUMMONED HOME--
--BY MAGNETO!
TO BE CONTINUED IN SECRET WARS II #1-- AND X-MEN #196: WHAT WAS THAT?!

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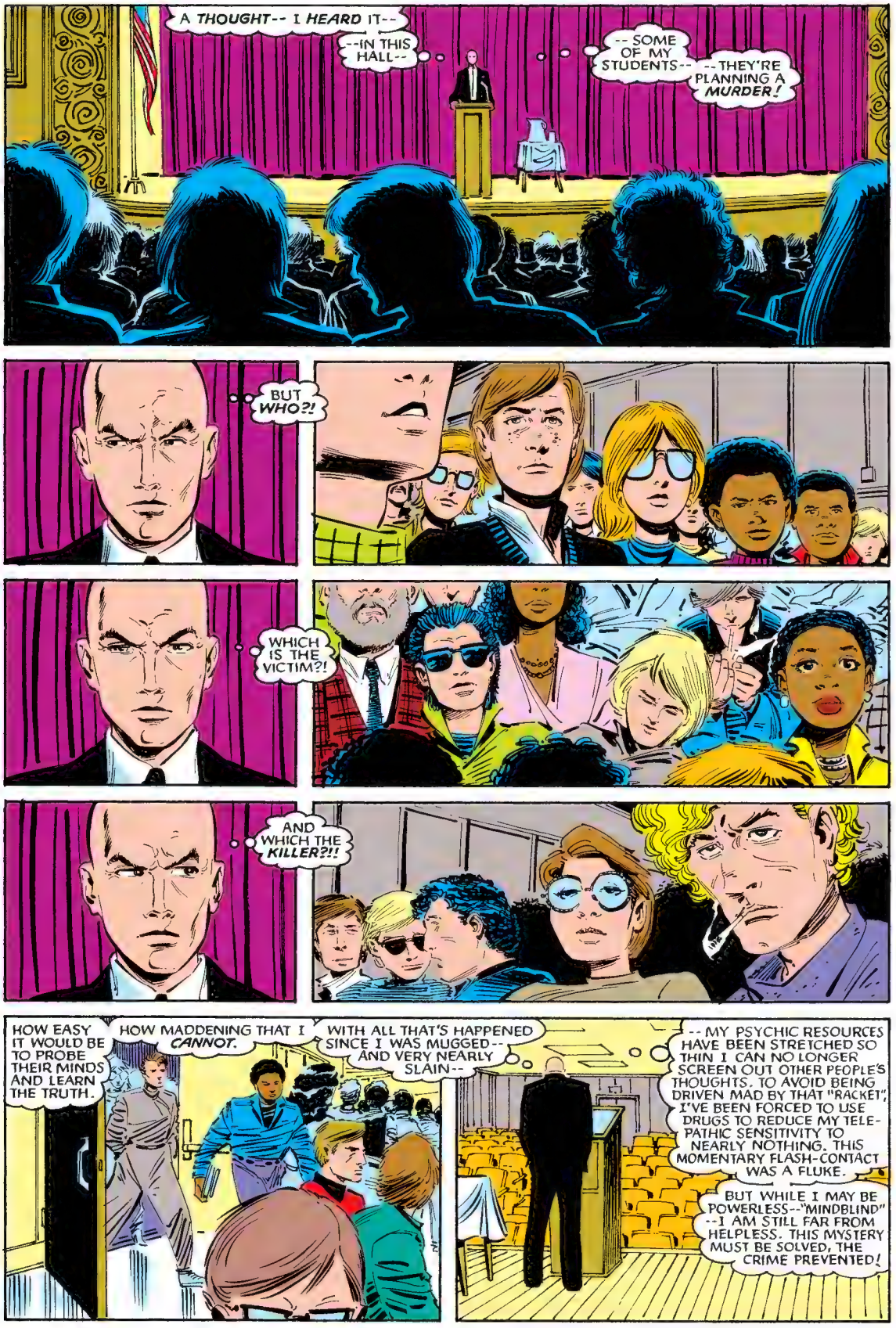
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK CITY-- ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGY 317-- TAUGHT BY CHARLES XAVIER, PhD
WHAT WAS THAT?!!
"WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE-- HE KNOWS WHO WE ARE, HE KNOWS WHAT WE DID--
"-- WE'VE GOT TO KILL HIM!"
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION, STARRING THE UNCANNY X-MEN
CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
JOHN ROMITA, Jr. & DAN GREEN ARTISTS
GLYNIS OLIVER, colorist
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, letterer
ANN NOCENTI, editor
JIM SHOOTER, editor in chief


A THOUGHT-- I HEARD IT--
--IN THIS HALL--
-- SOME OF MY STUDENTS--
--THEY'RE PLANNING A MURDER!
BUT WHO?!
WHICH IS THE VICTIM?!
AND WHICH THE KILLER?!!
HOW EASY IT WOULD BE TO PROBE THEIR MINDS AND LEARN THE TRUTH.
HOW MADDENING THAT I CANNOT.
WITH ALL THAT'S HAPPENED SINCE I WAS MUGGED-- AND VERY NEARLY SLAIN--
-- MY PSYCHIC RESOURCES HAVE BEEN STRETCHED SO THIN I CAN NO LONGER SCREEN OUT OTHER PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS. TO AVOID BEING DRIVEN MAD BY THAT "RACKET", I'VE BEEN FORCED TO USE DRUGS TO REDUCE MY TELEPATHIC SENSITIVITY TO NEARLY NOTHING. THIS MOMENTARY FLASH-CONTACT WAS A FLUKE.
BUT WHILE I MAY BE POWERLESS--"MINDBLIND" --I AM STILL FAR FROM HELPLESS. THIS MYSTERY MUST BE SOLVED, THE CRIME PREVENTED!

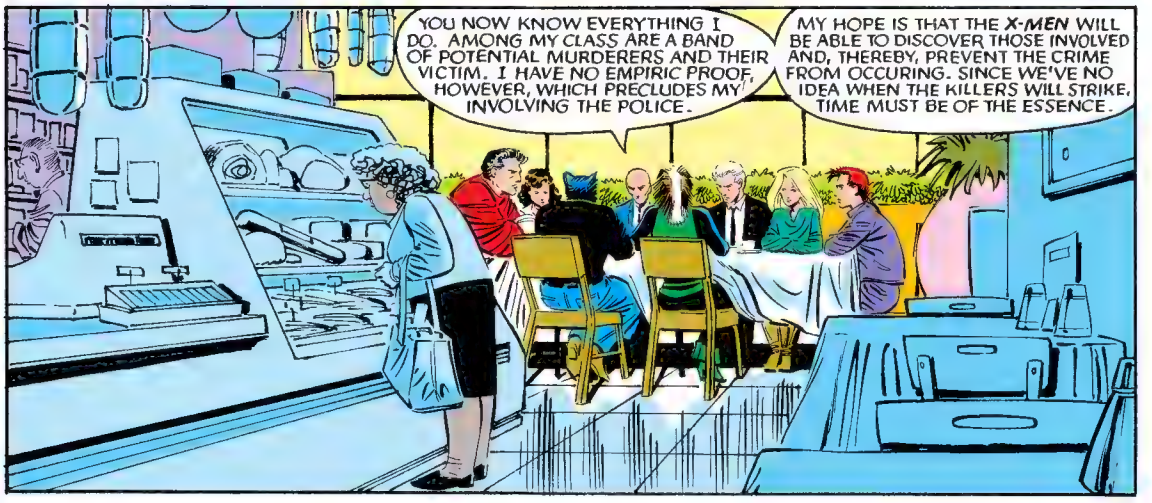
EAST AFRICA-- THE SERENGETI PLAIN...
WELL, ORORO, YOU ARE HOME-- HAVE YOU FOUND WHAT YOU WERE SEEKING?
SOLACE-- A TIME OF PEACE, FOR RELAXATION AND REFLECTION-- THAT MUCH, AT LEAST.
BUT NOT THE ANSWER...
... TO WHO AND WHAT I AM...
...OR WHERE I BELONG.
THAT SOUND--
--A LION?!!
HE WEARS A SILVER MANE-- HIS HAIR MATCHES MY OWN-- IS THAT AN OMEN?
HE SEEMS FRIENDLY--
GODDESS!?!
BLAM!
NO--
--HOW COULD YOU SHOOT SO NOBLE A BEAST--
--NO!
BLAM

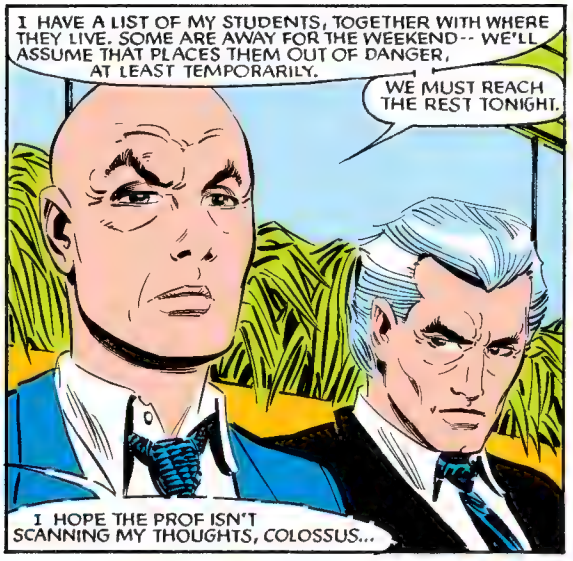
I BELIEVE, BROTHER--
--WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF THAT INTERFERING, INSUFFERABLY ARROGANT KAFFIR WITCH.
A MAGNIFICENT SHOT, ANDREA...
... BUT I WISH YOU'D LEFT THAT PLEASURE TO ME. AFTER ALL, I WAS THE ONE SHE STRUCK.
THE INSULT WAS AVENGED, ANDREAS, THAT IS WHAT MATTERS.
POACHING IS ONE THING-- BUT I DIDN'T BARGAIN ON MURDER.

YOU WORRY NEEDLESSLY, KRAMER. THE BRIBES WE PAID WILL MORE THAN GUARANTEE OUR SAFETY.
AS FAR AS THE AUTHORITIES ARE CONCERNED, WE WERE NEVER HERE, AND THIS INCIDENT NEVER HAPPENED.

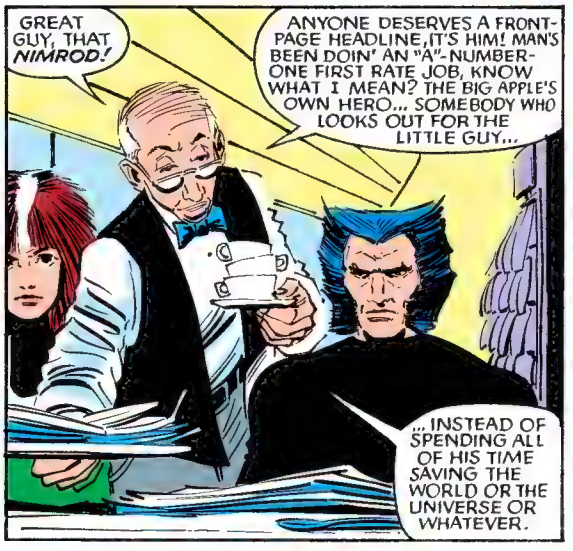
UNLESS, OF COURSE, A FOOLISH GUIDE TAKES IT INTO HIS HEAD TO SAY SOMETHING HE SHOULDN'T. THAT WOULD BE MOST...
... REGRETTABLE.
WE'LL TAKE THE LION FOR A TROPHY. LEAVE THE SAVAGE TO ROT.

NEW YORK CITY...
"ORORO GOT OUR PICTURES IN NAIROBI, ROGUE. HER LETTER SAYS SHE LIKES YOUR NEW HAIRSTYLE. SHE SOUNDS REALLY HAPPY... "
"KITTY, SAVE THAT FOR LATER, PLEASE. I AM CONDUCTING A BRIEFING. "
"SORRY, PROFESSOR. "


YOU NOW KNOW EVERYTHING I DO. AMONG MY CLASS ARE A BAND OF POTENTIAL MURDERERS AND THEIR VICTIM. I HAVE NO EMPIRIC PROOF, HOWEVER, WHICH PRECLUDES MY INVOLVING THE POLICE.
MY HOPE IS THAT THE X-MEN WILL BE ABLE TO DISCOVER THOSE INVOLVED AND, THEREBY, PREVENT THE CRIME FROM OCCURING. SINCE WE'VE NO IDEA WHEN THE KILLERS WILL STRIKE, TIME MUST BE OF THE ESSENCE.

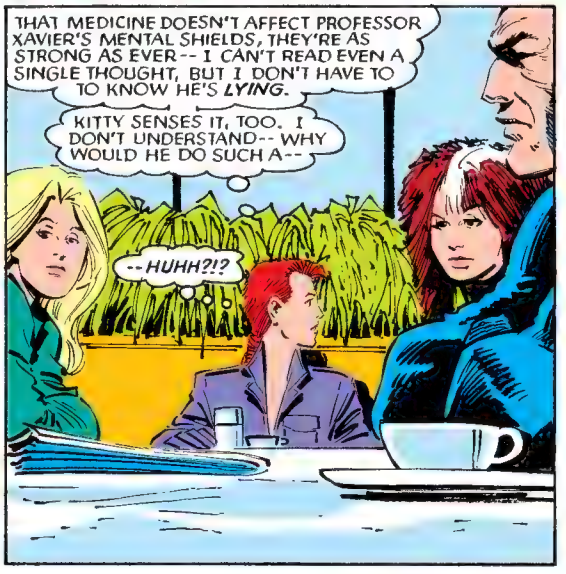

I HAVE A LIST OF MY STUDENTS, TOGETHER WITH WHERE THEY LIVE. SOME ARE AWAY FOR THE WEEKEND-- WE'LL ASSUME THAT PLACES THEM OUT OF DANGER, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.
WE MUST REACH THE REST TONIGHT.
I HOPE THE PROF ISN'T SCANNING MY THOUGHTS, COLOSSUS...

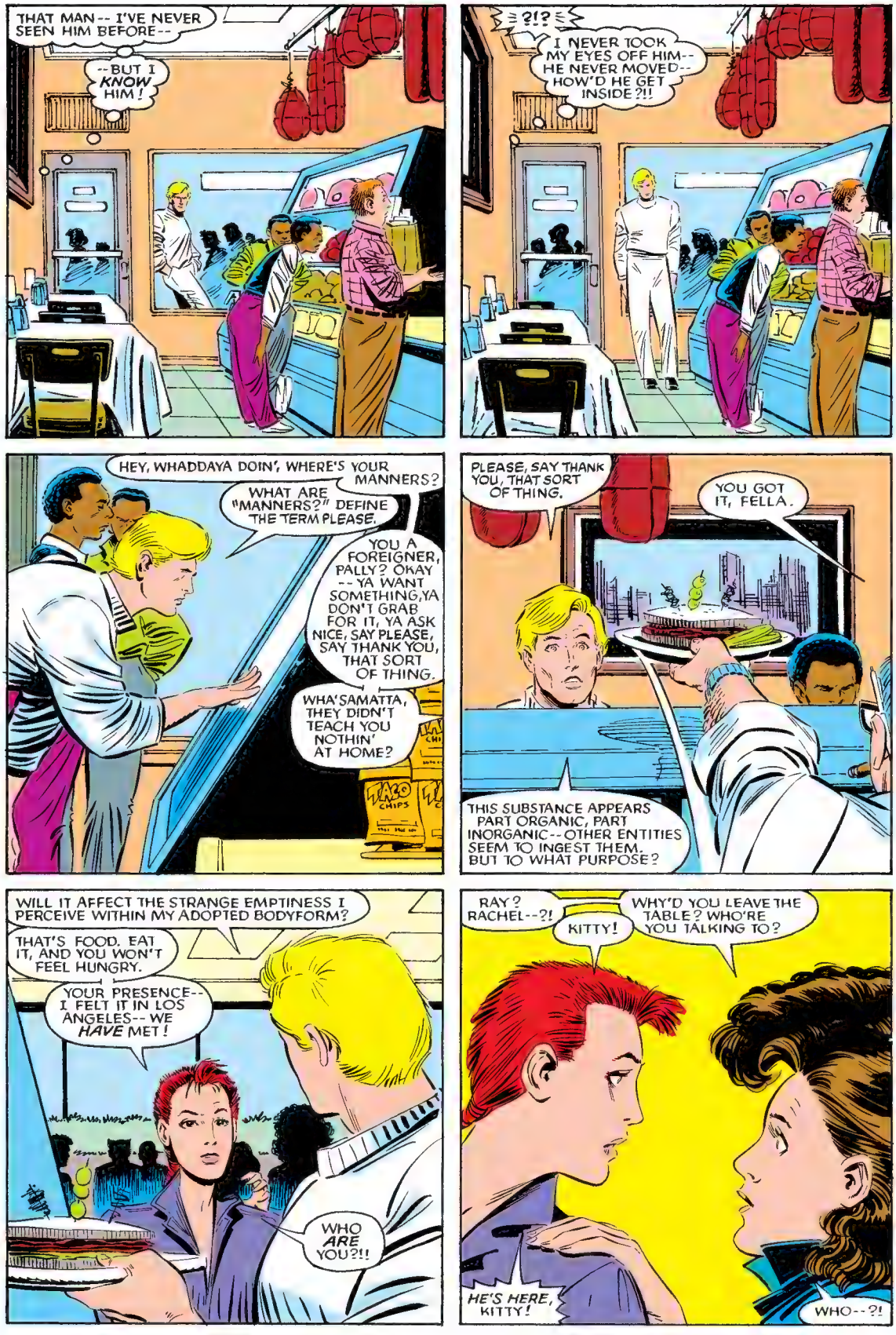
...BECAUSE THEY AREN'T VERY CHARITABLE. MAGNETO IS A VILLAIN-- CRUMBS, NOT THAT LONG AGO, HE NEARLY KILLED ME! HOW COME ALL OF A SUDDEN WE HAVE TO BE NICE TO HIM?!
THEY LOOK SO SUSPICIOUS, MAGNETO. THE X-MEN DON'T LIKE YOU. THEY DON'T WANT YOU HERE.
NIMROD TAKES AN INVITE!
IN THE PAST, ALEYTYS...
... I'VE GIVEN THEM GOOD REASON TO FEEL SO.

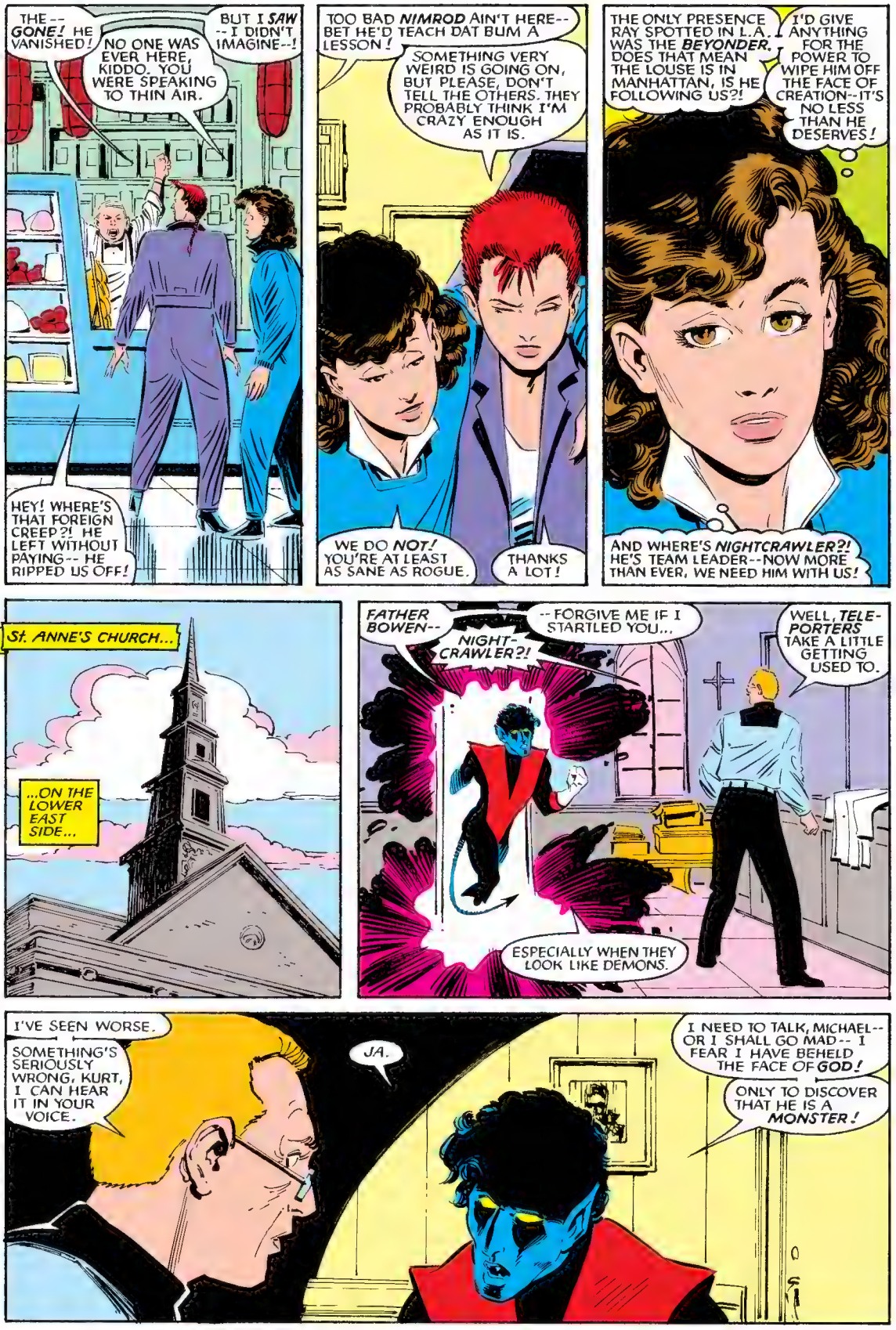

GREAT GUY, THAT NIMROD!
ANYONE DESERVES A FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE, IT'S HIM! MAN'S BEEN DOIN' AN "A"-NUMBER-ONE FIRST RATE JOB, KNOW WHAT I MEAN? THE BIG APPLE'S OWN HERO... SOMEBODY WHO LOOKS OUT FOR THE LITTLE GUY...
... INSTEAD OF SPENDING ALL OF HIS TIME SAVING THE WORLD OR THE UNIVERSE OR WHATEVER.

WOLVIE, WHAT'S UP?
YOU BEEN STARIN' AT THE PROF ALL EVENING-- YOU BEEN WATCHIN' HIM FOR DAYS-- SOMETHIN' AILIN' YOU?
MAYBE. MAYBE NOT.
AH WANT'A HELP.
I'M OBLIGED, ROGUE, BUT YOU CAN'T.

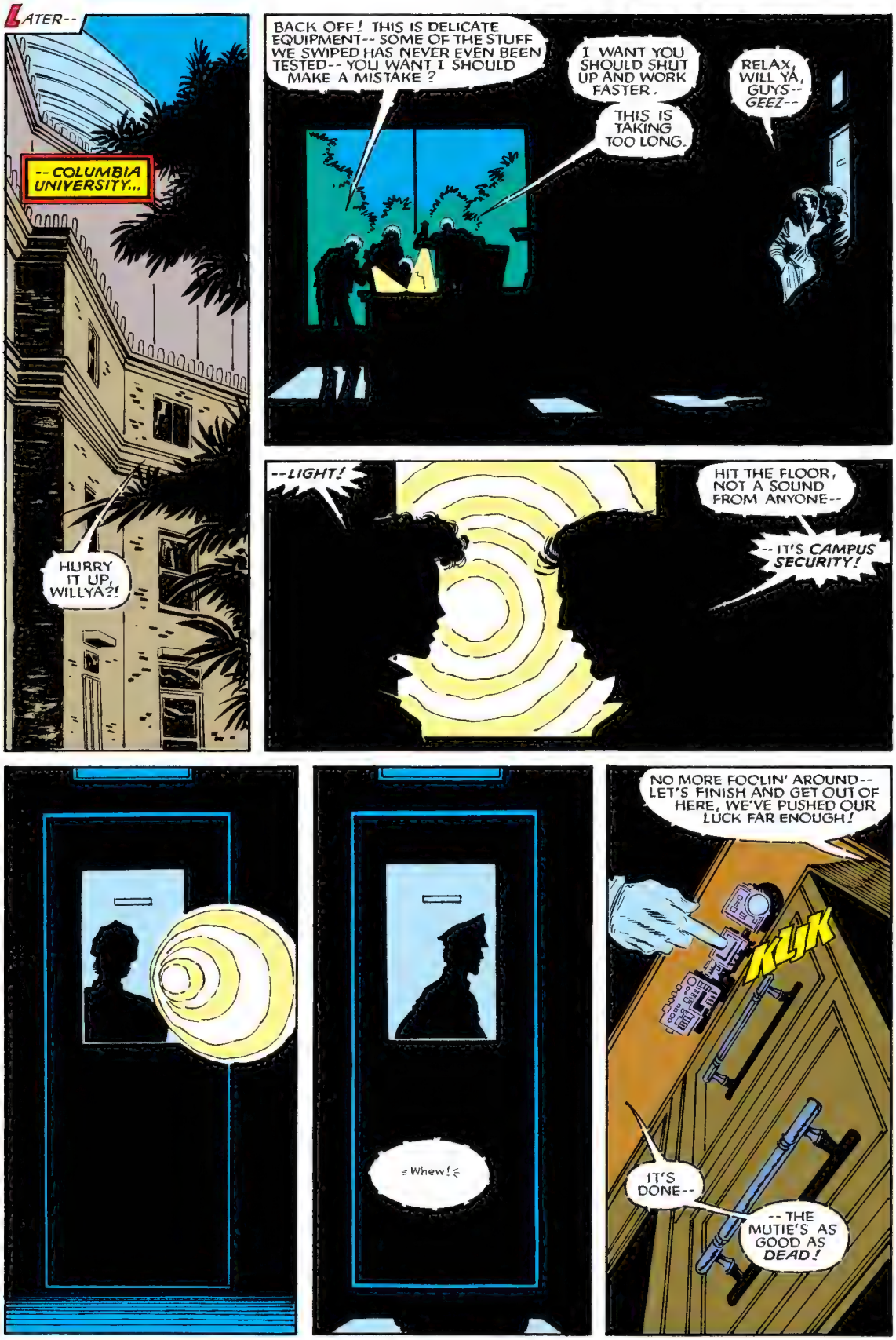
PROFESSOR, WHY NOT PSIPROBE YOUR STUDENTS, WHY PUT US TO ALL THIS TROUBLE-- AND TAKE SO GREAT A RISK WITH THE VICTIM'S LIFE?
I WOULD IF I COULD, SHADOWCAT...
... BUT I AM IN THE MIDST OF A... DELICATE EXPERIMENT...
... WHICH REQUIRES ME TO NEUTRALIZE MY TELEPATHIC ABILITIES. BY THE TIME THE INHIBITOR DRUGS WEAR OFF, IT MAY BE TOO LATE.


THAT MEDICINE DOESN'T AFFECT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S MENTAL SHIELDS, THEY'RE AS STRONG AS EVER-- I CAN'T READ EVEN A SINGLE THOUGHT, BUT I DON'T HAVE TO TO KNOW HE'S LYING.
KITTY SENSES IT, TOO. I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- WHY WOULD HE DO SUCH A--
--HUHH?!?

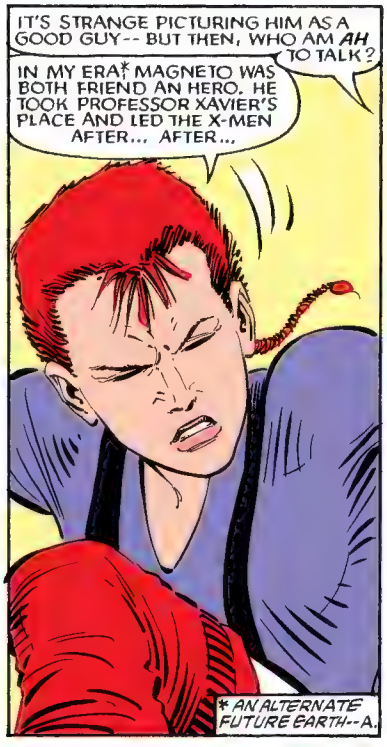

THAT MAN-- I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE--
--BUT I KNOW HIM!
?!?
I NEVER TOOK MY EYES OFF HIM-- HE NEVER MOVED-- HOW'D HE GET INSIDE?!!
HEY, WHADDAYA DOIN', WHERE'S YOUR MANNERS?
WHAT ARE "MANNERS?" DEFINE THE TERM PLEASE.
YOU A FOREIGNER, PALLY? OKAY --YA WANT SOMETHING, YA DON'T GRAB FOR IT, YA ASK NICE, SAY PLEASE, SAY THANK YOU, THAT SORT OF THING.
WHA'SAMATTA, THEY DIDN'T TEACH YOU NOTHIN' AT HOME?
PLEASE, SAY THANK YOU, THAT SORT OF THING.
YOU GOT IT, FELLA.
THIS SUBSTANCE APPEARS PART ORGANIC, PART INORGANIC-- OTHER ENTITIES SEEM TO INGEST THEM. BUT TO WHAT PURPOSE?
WILL IT AFFECT THE STRANGE EMPTINESS I PERCEIVE WITHIN MY ADOPTED BODYFORM?
THAT'S FOOD. EAT IT, AND YOU WON'T FEEL HUNGRY.
YOUR PRESENCE-- I FELT IT IN LOS ANGELES-- WE HAVE MET!
WHO ARE YOU?!!
RAY? RACHEL--?!
KITTY!
WHY'D YOU LEAVE THE TABLE? WHO'RE YOU TALKING TO?
HE'S HERE, KITTY!
WHO--?!

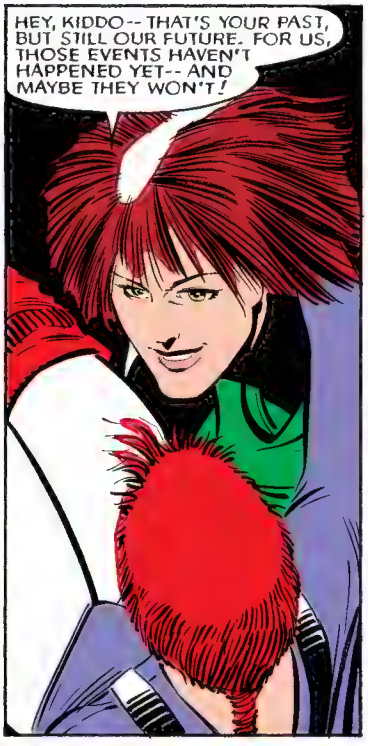

THE-- GONE! HE VANISHED!
NO ONE WAS EVER HERE, KIDDO. YOU WERE SPEAKING TO THIN AIR.
BUT I SAW -- I DIDN'T IMAGINE--!
HEY! WHERE'S THAT FOREIGN CREEP?! HE LEFT WITHOUT PAYING-- HE RIPPED US OFF!
TOO BAD NIMROD AIN'T HERE-- BET HE'D TEACH DAT BUM A LESSON!
SOMETHING VERY WEIRD IS GOING ON, BUT PLEASE, DON'T TELL THE OTHERS. THEY PROBABLY THINK I'M CRAZY ENOUGH AS IT IS.
WE DO NOT! YOU'RE AT LEAST AS SANE AS ROGUE.
THANKS A LOT!
THE ONLY PRESENCE RAY SPOTTED IN L.A. WAS THE BEYONDER. DOES THAT MEAN THE LOUSE IS IN MANHATTAN, IS HE FOLLOWING US?!
I'D GIVE ANYTHING FOR THE POWER TO WIPE HIM OFF THE FACE OF CREATION--IT'S NO LESS THAN HE DESERVES!
AND WHERE'S NIGHTCRAWLER?! HE'S TEAM LEADER--NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED HIM WITH US!
ST. ANNE'S CHURCH...
...ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE...
FATHER BOWEN--
NIGHT-CRAWLER?!
-- FORGIVE ME IF I STARTLED YOU...
WELL, TELE-PORTERS TAKE A LITTLE GETTING USED TO.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY LOOK LIKE DEMONS.
I'VE SEEN WORSE.
SOMETHING'S SERIOUSLY WRONG, KURT, I CAN HEAR IT IN YOUR VOICE.
JA.
I NEED TO TALK, MICHAEL-- OR I SHALL GO MAD-- I FEAR I HAVE BEHELD THE FACE OF GOD!
ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT HE IS A MONSTER!

... THE X-MEN WERE ABDUCTED BY A BEING CALLED THE BEYONDER.
HE DESTROYED AN ENTIRE GALAXY AND USED ITS SUBSTANCE TO CREATE A FANTASTIC WORLD WHEREON WE--AND OTHER HEROES AND SUPER-VILLAINS--FOUGHT A COSMIC WAR, HIDDEN FROM THE EYES OF THE UNIVERSE.
HE PERFORMED WHAT I CAN ONLY CALL MIRACLES, JUST LIKE IN THE BIBLE.
AND NOW HE HAS COME TO EARTH.
FATHER, SINCE JOINING THE X-MEN, I HAVE ENCOUNTERED BEINGS SO POWERFUL...
...THEY WOULD SEEM TO ANY OF US AS GODS--
--YET, COMPARED TO THE BEYONDER, THEY ARE NOTHING!
WHAT THEN DOES THIS MAKE HIM?
IS THIS GOD?
I TELL MYSELF THIS CANNOT BE-- BUT IF HE IS NOT, WHO IS?!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, MICHAEL-- THIS CREATURE CAN DESTROY THE EARTH IN AN INSTANT!
HOW CAN THE LORD PERMIT THIS ENTITY TO THREATEN HUMANITY-- AND PERHAPS ALL CREATION-- UNLESS THE BEYONDER IS GOD.
BUT IF HE IS, HOW THEN CAN I BELIEVE IN SUCH A BEING?
MY FAITH SUSTAINED ME IN TIMES OF UTTER DESPAIR, WHEN DEATH SEEMED CERTAIN AND I WAS SURE THERE WAS NO HOPE--
--BUT NOW, I SEARCH FOR IT AND FIND ONLY EMPTINESS. THAT BLESSED INNER LIGHT HAS FLED FROM MY SOUL.
THANKS TO THE BEYONDER, I AM HOLLOW INSIDE.
I AM LOST!


LATER--
-- COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY...
HURRY IT UP, WILLYA?!
BACK OFF! THIS IS DELICATE EQUIPMENT-- SOME OF THE STUFF WE SWIPED HAS NEVER EVEN BEEN TESTED-- YOU WANT I SHOULD MAKE A MISTAKE?
I WANT YOU SHOULD SHUT UP AND WORK FASTER.
THIS IS TAKING TOO LONG.
RELAX, WILL YA, GUYS-- GEEZ--
--LIGHT!
HIT THE FLOOR, NOT A SOUND FROM ANYONE--
-- IT'S CAMPUS SECURITY!
=Whew!=
NO MORE FOOLIN' AROUND-- LET'S FINISH AND GET OUT OF HERE, WE'VE PUSHED OUR LUCK FAR ENOUGH!
KLIK
IT'S DONE--
-- THE MUTIE'S AS GOOD AS DEAD!

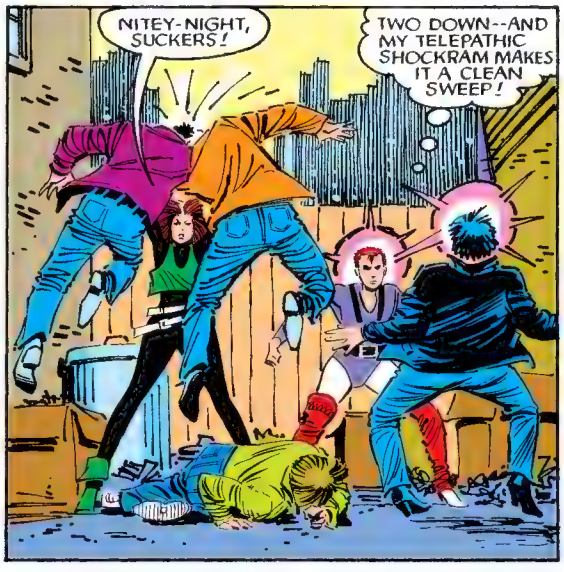
MEANWHILE, NEARBY...
ANY-THING, RAY?
LOTS-- BUT NOT OF ANY USE.
THIS ISLAND'S SO CROWDED-- SO MANY PEOPLE, SO MANY THOUGHTS-- IT MAKES FINDING THE PROVERBIAL NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK EASY BY COMPARISON.
GOTTA HAND IT TO MAGNETO, THOUGH, THIS IDEA OF HIS COULD BE RIGHT ON THE MONEY-- USING YOUR TELEPATHIC TALENT IN PLACE OF THE PROF'S.

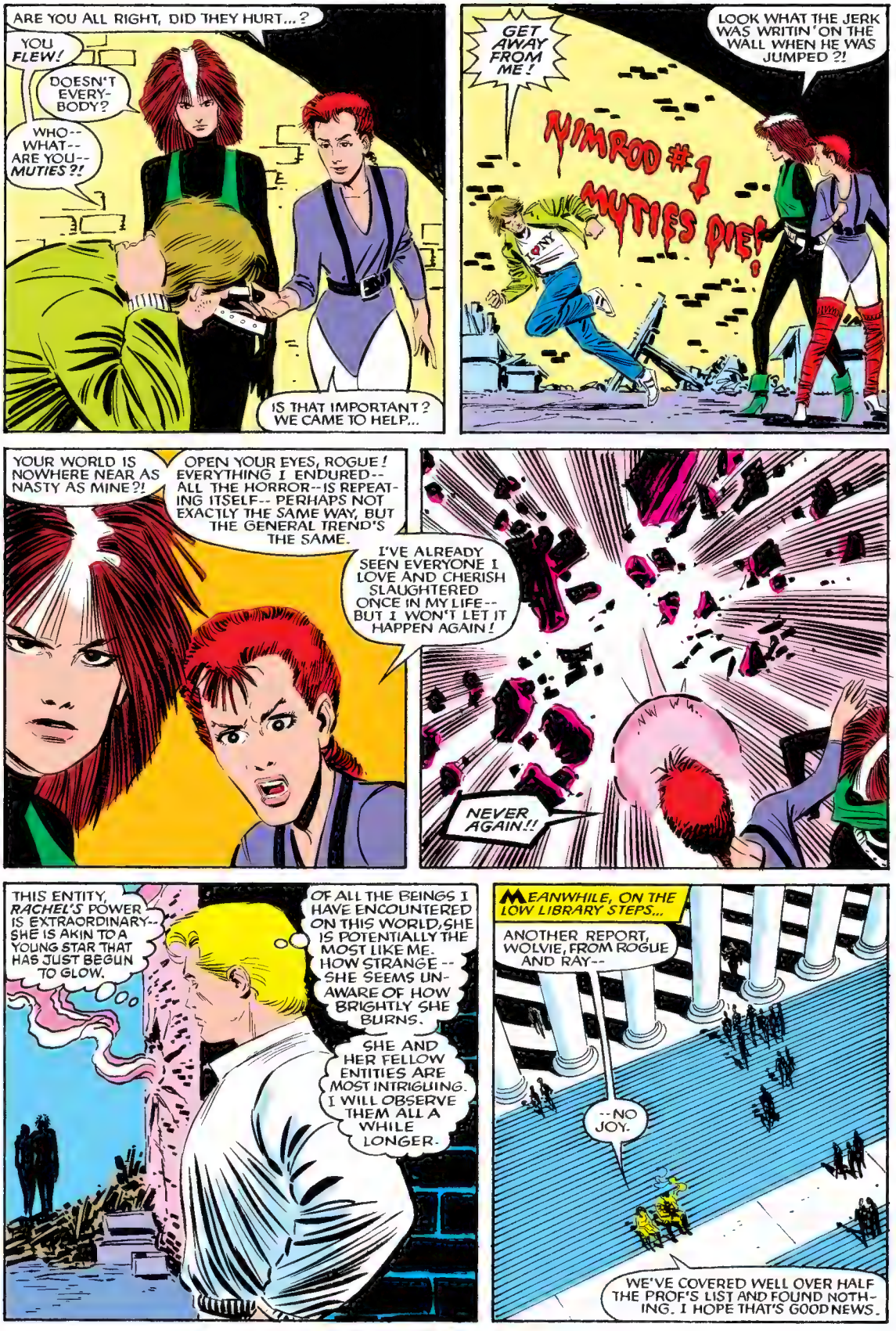

IT'S STRANGE PICTURING HIM AS A GOOD GUY-- BUT THEN, WHO AM AH TO TALK?
IN MY ERA* MAGNETO WAS BOTH FRIEND AN HERO. HE TOOK PROFESSOR XAVIER'S PLACE AND LED THE X-MEN AFTER... AFTER...
* AN ALTERNATE FUTURE EARTH--A.

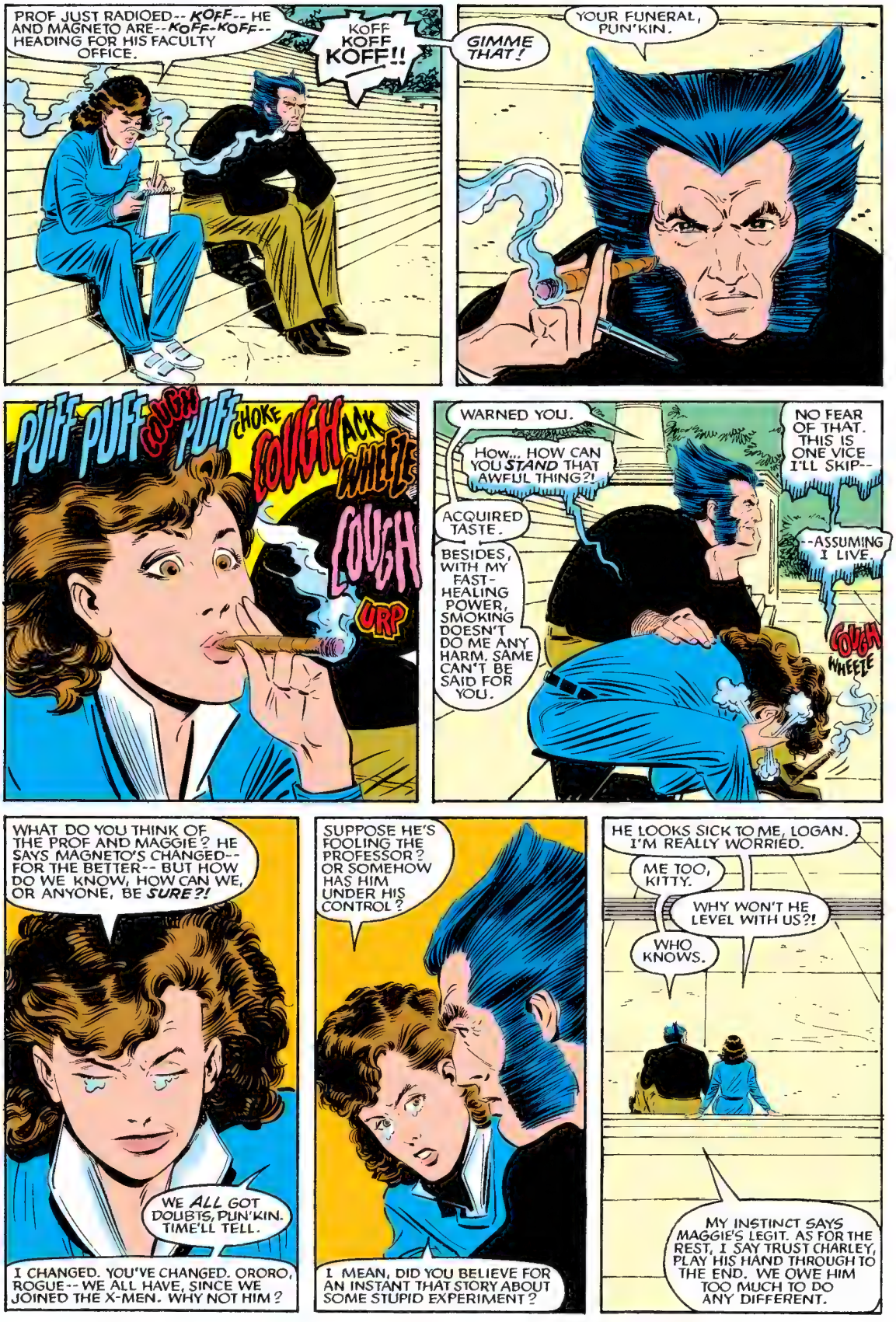

HEY, KIDDO-- THAT'S YOUR PAST, BUT STILL OUR FUTURE. FOR US, THOSE EVENTS HAVEN'T HAPPENED YET-- AND MAYBE THEY WON'T!

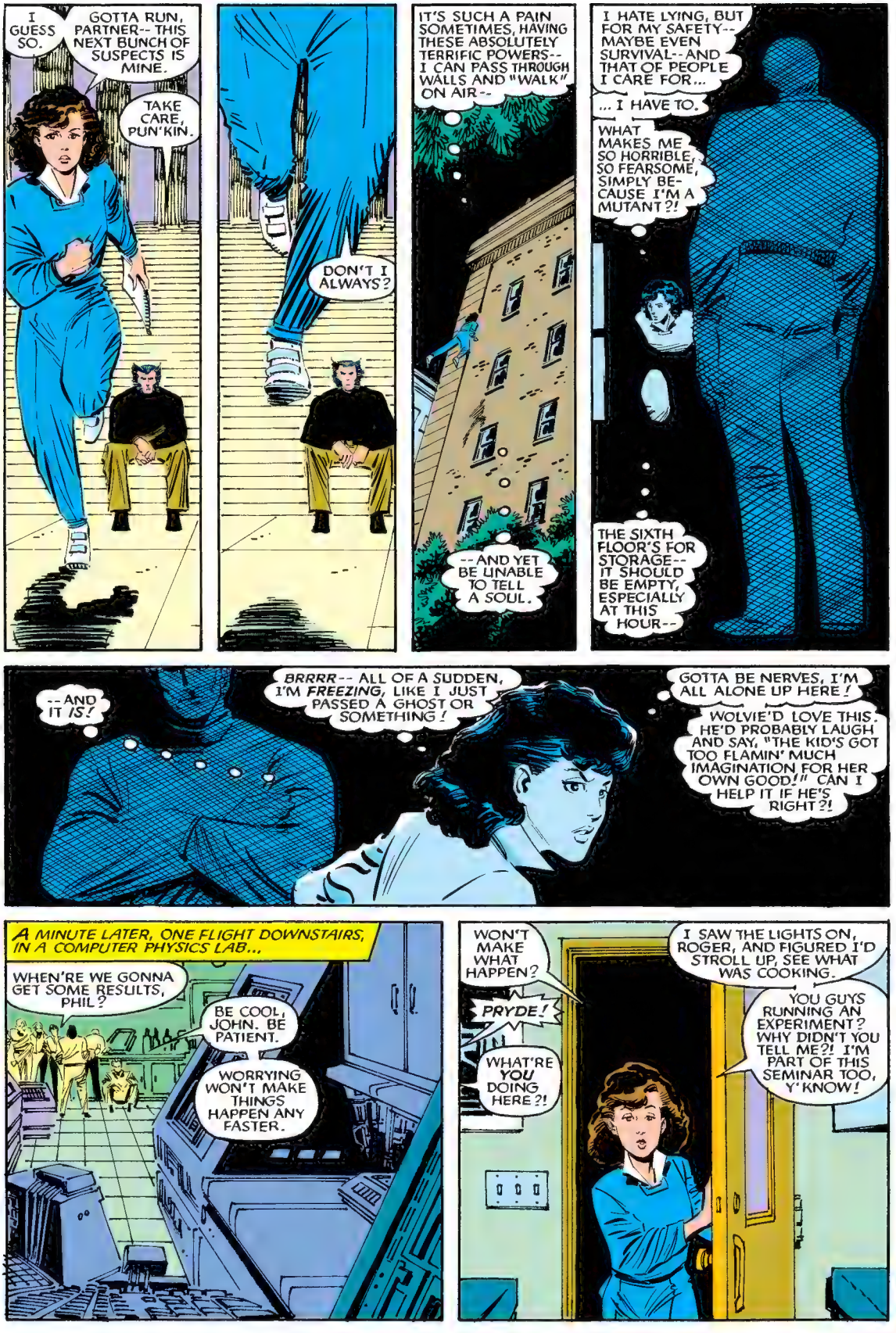
CHARLEY AIN'T DEAD AND THIS EARTH AIN'T NOWHERE NEAR AS NASTY AS THE ONE YOU REMEMBER.
ROGUE?
A PSIFLASH-- OF PAIN AND FEAR-- FROM THAT ALLEY BELOW! A BOY'S BEING ATTACKED!

MUGGING!
THREE-TO-ONE-ODDS -- NICE BUNCH'A GUYS.
LET'S TAKE 'EM!

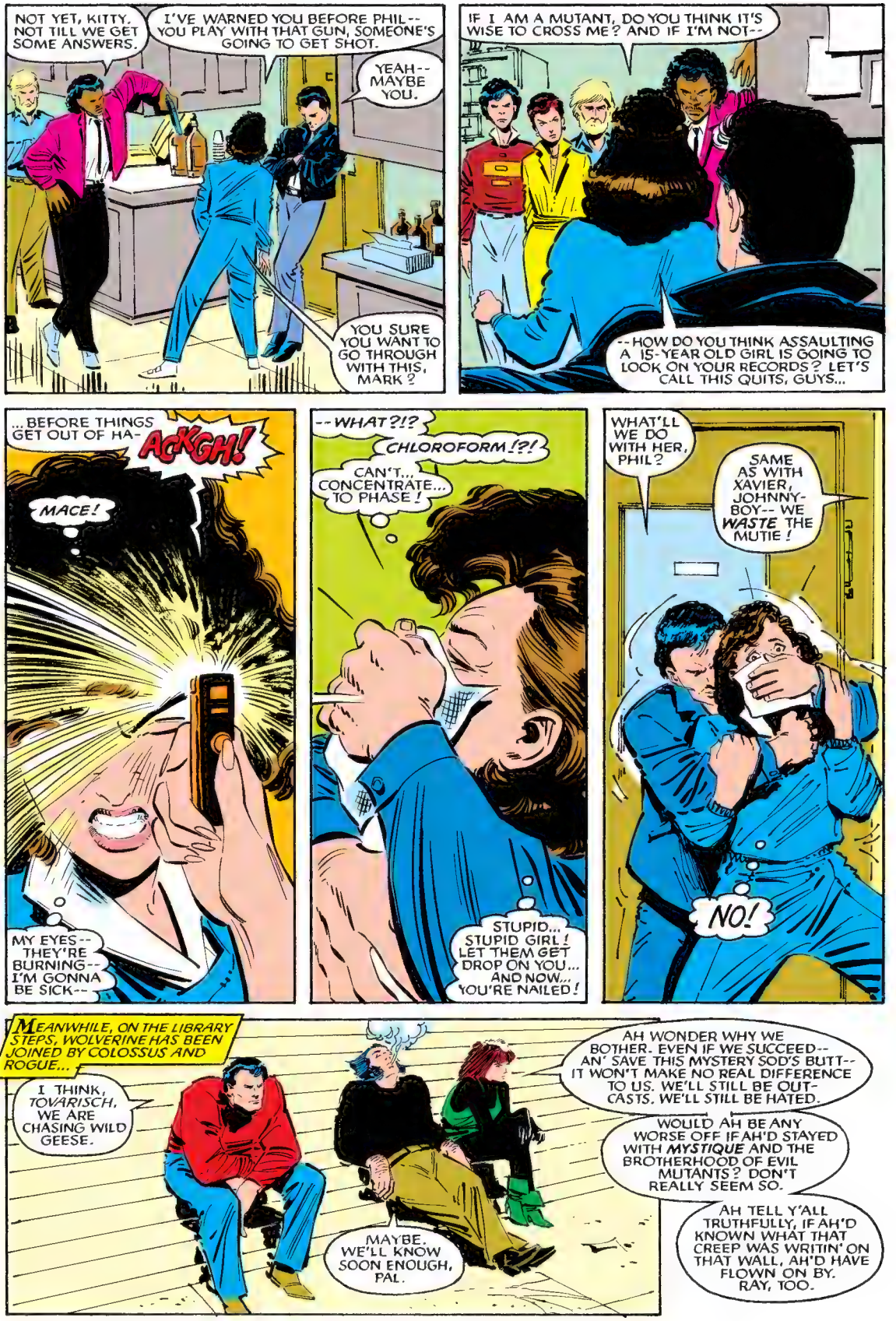

NITEY-NIGHT, SUCKERS!
TWO DOWN--AND MY TELEPATHIC SHOCKRAM MAKES IT A CLEAN SWEEP!

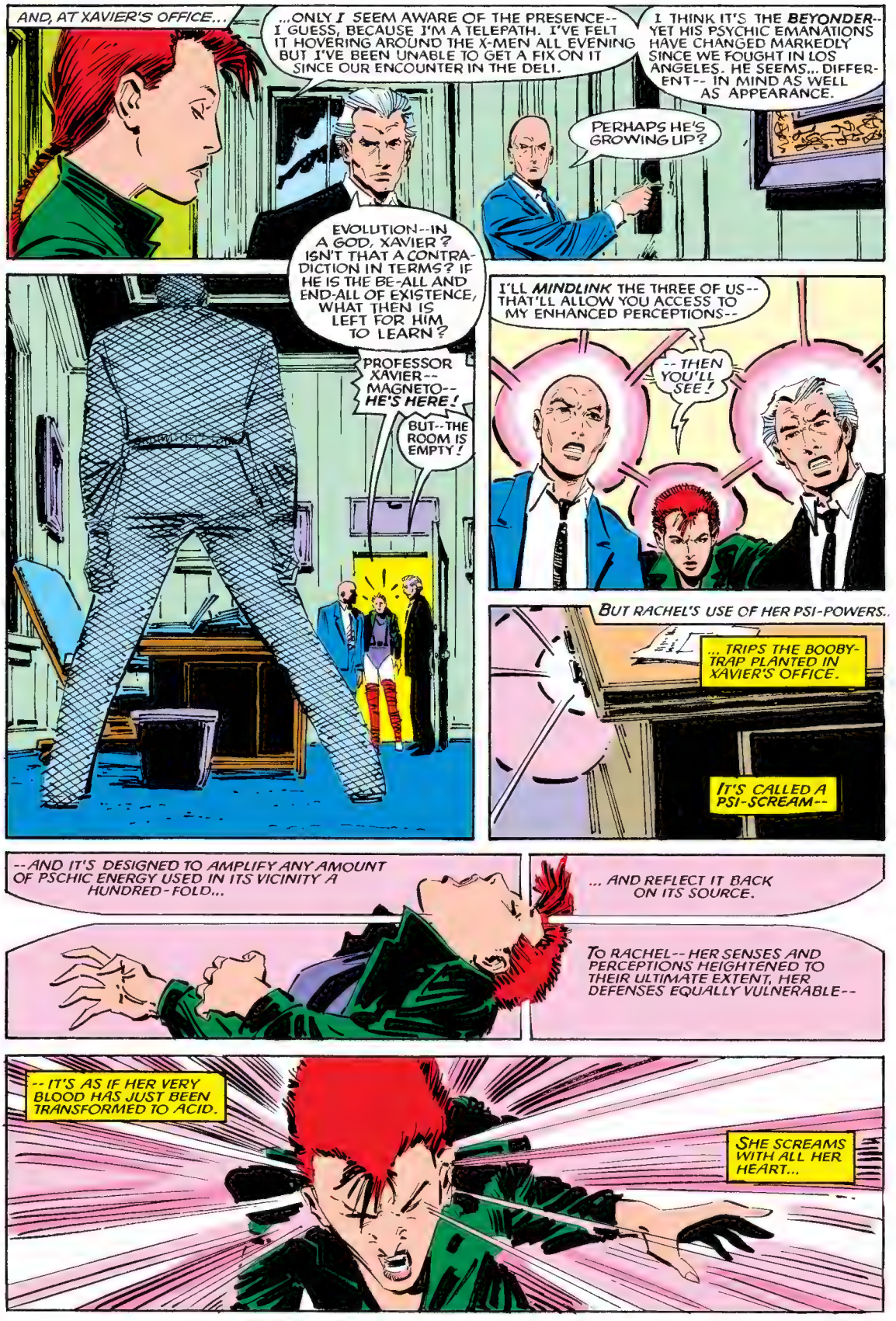

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DID THEY HURT...?
YOU FLEW!
DOESN'T EVERYBODY?
WHO--WHAT--ARE YOU--MUTIES?!
IS THAT IMPORTANT? WE CAME TO HELP...
GET AWAY FROM ME!
LOOK WHAT THE JERK WAS WRITIN' ON THE WALL WHEN HE WAS JUMPED?!
NIMROD #1
MUTIES DIE!
YOUR WORLD IS NOWHERE NEAR AS NASTY AS MINE?!
OPEN YOUR EYES, ROGUE! EVERYTHING I ENDURED--ALL THE HORROR--IS REPEATING ITSELF-- PERHAPS NOT EXACTLY THE SAME WAY, BUT THE GENERAL TREND'S THE SAME.
I'VE ALREADY SEEN EVERYONE I LOVE AND CHERISH SLAUGHTERED ONCE IN MY LIFE--BUT I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!
NEVER AGAIN!!
THIS ENTITY, RACHEL'S POWER IS EXTRAORDINARY--SHE IS AKIN TO A YOUNG STAR THAT HAS JUST BEGUN TO GLOW.
OF ALL THE BEINGS I HAVE ENCOUNTERED ON THIS WORLD, SHE IS POTENTIALLY THE MOST LIKE ME. HOW STRANGE--SHE SEEMS UNAWARE OF HOW BRIGHTLY SHE BURNS.
SHE AND HER FELLOW ENTITIES ARE MOST INTRIGUING. I WILL OBSERVE THEM ALL A WHILE LONGER.
MEANWHILE, ON THE LOW LIBRARY STEPS...
ANOTHER REPORT, WOLVIE, FROM ROGUE AND RAY--
--NO JOY.
WE'VE COVERED WELL OVER HALF THE PROF'S LIST AND FOUND NOTHING. I HOPE THAT'S GOOD NEWS.

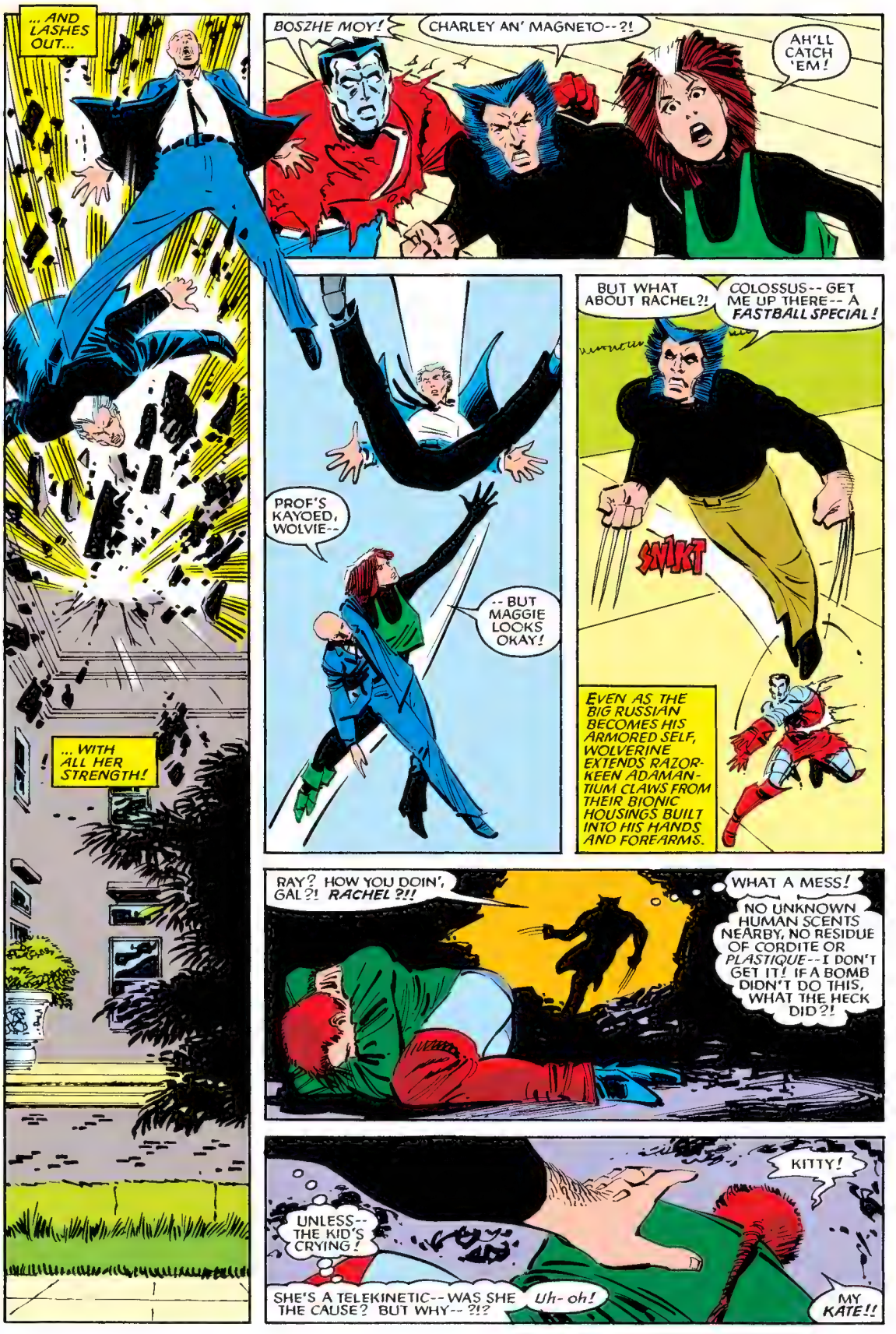

PROF JUST RADIOED-- KOFF-- HE AND MAGNETO ARE--KOFF-KOFF-- HEADING FOR HIS FACULTY OFFICE.
KOFF KOFF KOFF!!
GIMME THAT!
YOUR FUNERAL, PUN'KIN.
PUFF PUFF COUGH PUFF CHOKE COUGH ACK WHEEE COUGH URP
WARNED YOU.
How... HOW CAN YOU STAND THAT AWFUL THING?!
ACQUIRED TASTE.
BESIDES, WITH MY FAST-HEALING POWER, SMOKING DOESN'T DO ME ANY HARM. SAME CAN'T BE SAID FOR YOU.
NO FEAR OF THAT. THIS IS ONE VICE I'LL SKIP--
--ASSUMING I LIVE.
COUGH WHEEE
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PROF AND MAGGIE? HE SAYS MAGNETO'S CHANGED-- FOR THE BETTER-- BUT HOW DO WE KNOW, HOW CAN WE, OR ANYONE, BE SURE?!
WE ALL GOT DOUBTS, PUN'KIN. TIME'LL TELL.
I CHANGED. YOU'VE CHANGED. ORORO, ROGUE-- WE ALL HAVE, SINCE WE JOINED THE X-MEN. WHY NOT HIM?
SUPPOSE HE'S FOOLING THE PROFESSOR? OR SOMEHOW HAS HIM UNDER HIS CONTROL?
I MEAN, DID YOU BELIEVE FOR AN INSTANT THAT STORY ABOUT SOME STUPID EXPERIMENT?
HE LOOKS SICK TO ME, LOGAN. I'M REALLY WORRIED.
ME TOO, KITTY.
WHY WON'T HE LEVEL WITH US?!
WHO KNOWS.
MY INSTINCT SAYS MAGGIE'S LEGIT. AS FOR THE REST, I SAY TRUST CHARLEY, PLAY HIS HAND THROUGH TO THE END. WE OWE HIM TOO MUCH TO DO ANY DIFFERENT.

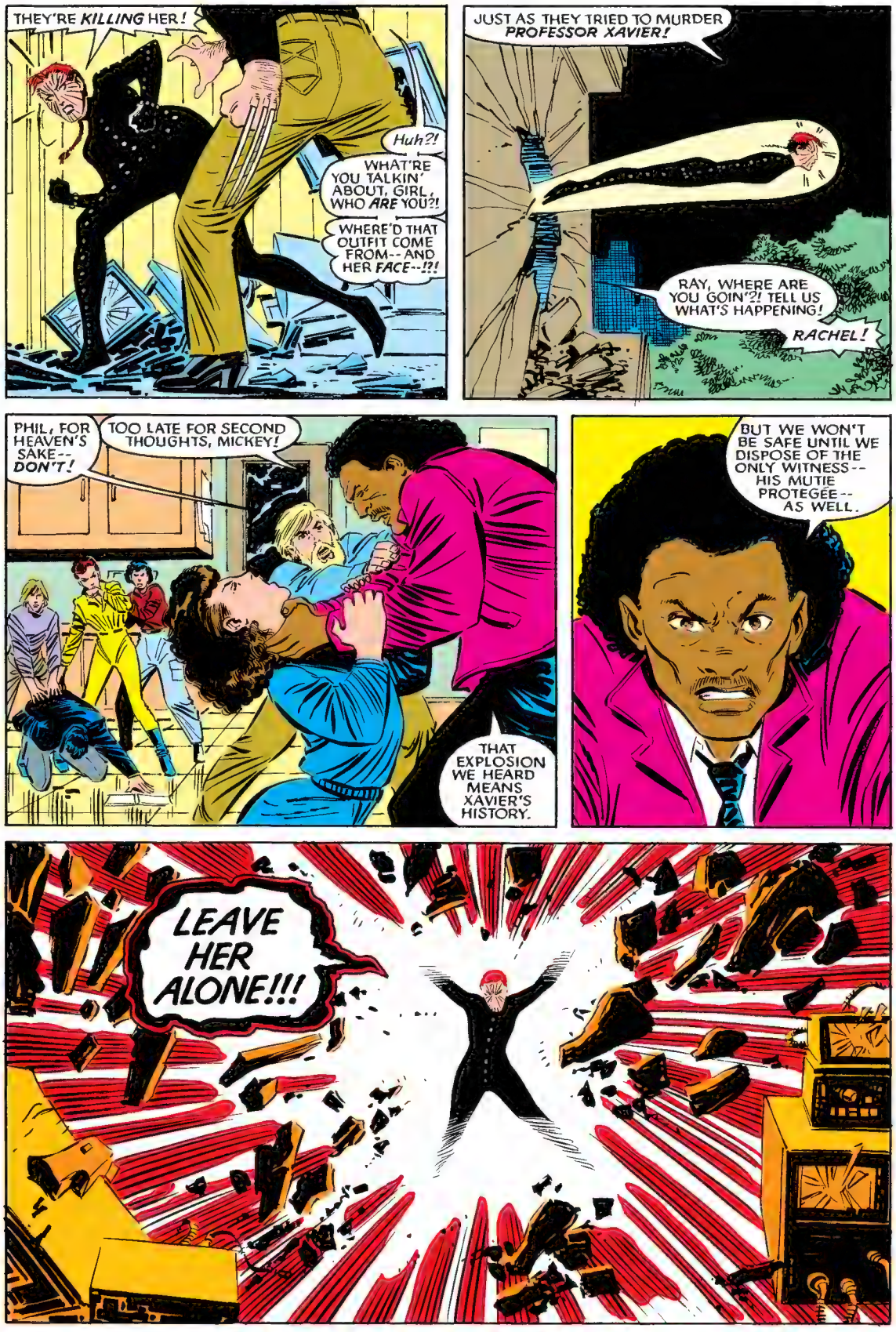

I GUESS SO.
GOTTA RUN, PARTNER-- THIS NEXT BUNCH OF SUSPECTS IS MINE.
TAKE CARE, PUN'KIN.
DON'T I ALWAYS?
IT'S SUCH A PAIN SOMETIMES, HAVING THESE ABSOLUTELY TERRIFIC POWERS-- I CAN PASS THROUGH WALLS AND "WALK" ON AIR--
--AND YET BE UNABLE TO TELL A SOUL.
I HATE LYING, BUT FOR MY SAFETY-- MAYBE EVEN SURVIVAL--AND THAT OF PEOPLE I CARE FOR...
... I HAVE TO.
WHAT MAKES ME SO HORRIBLE, SO FEARSOME, SIMPLY BE-CAUSE I'M A MUTANT?!
THE SIXTH FLOOR'S FOR STORAGE-- IT SHOULD BE EMPTY, ESPECIALLY AT THIS HOUR--
--AND IT IS!
BRRRR-- ALL OF A SUDDEN, I'M FREEZING, LIKE I JUST PASSED A GHOST OR SOMETHING!
GOTTA BE NERVES, I'M ALL ALONE UP HERE!
WOLVIE'D LOVE THIS. HE'D PROBABLY LAUGH AND SAY, "THE KID'S GOT TOO FLAMIN' MUCH IMAGINATION FOR HER OWN GOOD!" CAN I HELP IT IF HE'S RIGHT?!
A MINUTE LATER, ONE FLIGHT DOWNSTAIRS, IN A COMPUTER PHYSICS LAB...
WHEN'RE WE GONNA GET SOME RESULTS, PHIL?
BE COOL, JOHN. BE PATIENT.
WORRYING WON'T MAKE THINGS HAPPEN ANY FASTER.
WON'T MAKE WHAT HAPPEN?
PRYDE!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
I SAW THE LIGHTS ON, ROGER, AND FIGURED I'D STROLL UP, SEE WHAT WAS COOKING.
YOU GUYS RUNNING AN EXPERIMENT? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?! I'M PART OF THIS SEMINAR TOO, Y'KNOW!

IT'S A PRIVATE PROJECT.
OH--HEY, MAY I? THANKS A LOT, I'M STARVED--YUM!
ANCHOVIES--YUCK! EVERYBODY GOT VERY TENSE THE MOMENT I WALKED IN. SOMETHING'S NOT KOSHER.
BUT WHAT--DRUGS? OR HAVE I HIT PAY-DIRT?! NAH, COULDN'T BE. THIS CROWD, MURDERERS? NOT A CHANCE.
WE LOCKED THE DOORS, KITTY, AND SET THE ALARMS. HOW'D YOU GET INSIDE THE BUILDING?
GIMME A BREAK, BOBBY.
I KNOW THAT HARDWARE INSIDE OUT...
... BYPASSING IT WAS CHILD'S-PLAY.
I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THIS TILL NOW, BRAT...
... BUT YOU ATTEND CHARLES XAVIER'S PRIVATE SCHOOL UPSTATE.
COMMON KNOWLEDGE--SO WHAT?
YOU A MUTIE THEN, PRYDE--
--LIKE HIM?!
GEE, I DUNNO, PHIL--
--ARE YOU A NIGGER?
WATCH YOUR MOUTH!
WATCH YOURS!
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU USE WORDS LIKE THAT, AND TRY TO BE INTENTIONALLY HURTFUL!
ALL OF A SUDDEN, PHIL, I DON'T MUCH LIKE YOU ANYMORE, OR YOUR BUDDIES. I THINK I'LL BE ON MY WAY.


NOT YET, KITTY. NOT TILL WE GET SOME ANSWERS.
I'VE WARNED YOU BEFORE PHIL-- YOU PLAY WITH THAT GUN, SOMEONE'S GOING TO GET SHOT.
YEAH-- MAYBE YOU.
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS, MARK?
IF I AM A MUTANT, DO YOU THINK IT'S WISE TO CROSS ME? AND IF I'M NOT--
--HOW DO YOU THINK ASSAULTING A 15-YEAR OLD GIRL IS GOING TO LOOK ON YOUR RECORDS? LET'S CALL THIS QUITS, GUYS...
...BEFORE THINGS GET OUT OF HA-
ACKGH!
MACE!
MY EYES-- THEY'RE BURNING-- I'M GONNA BE SICK--
--WHAT?!?
CHLOROFORM!?!
CAN'T... CONCENTRATE... TO PHASE!
STUPID... STUPID GIRL! LET THEM GET DROP ON YOU... AND NOW... YOU'RE NAILED!
WHAT'LL WE DO WITH HER, PHIL?
SAME AS WITH XAVIER, JOHNNY-BOY-- WE WASTE THE MUTIE!
NO!
MEANWHILE, ON THE LIBRARY STEPS, WOLVERINE HAS BEEN JOINED BY COLOSSUS AND ROGUE...
I THINK, TOVARISCH, WE ARE CHASING WILD GEESE.
MAYBE. WE'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH, PAL.
AH WONDER WHY WE BOTHER. EVEN IF WE SUCCEED-- AN' SAVE THIS MYSTERY SOD'S BUTT-- IT WON'T MAKE NO REAL DIFFERENCE TO US. WE'LL STILL BE OUT-CASTS. WE'LL STILL BE HATED.
WOULD AH BE ANY WORSE OFF IF AH'D STAYED WITH MYSTIQUE AND THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS? DON'T REALLY SEEM SO.
AH TELL Y'ALL TRUTHFULLY, IF AH'D KNOWN WHAT THAT CREEP WAS WRITIN' ON THAT WALL, AH'D HAVE FLOWN ON BY. RAY, TOO.

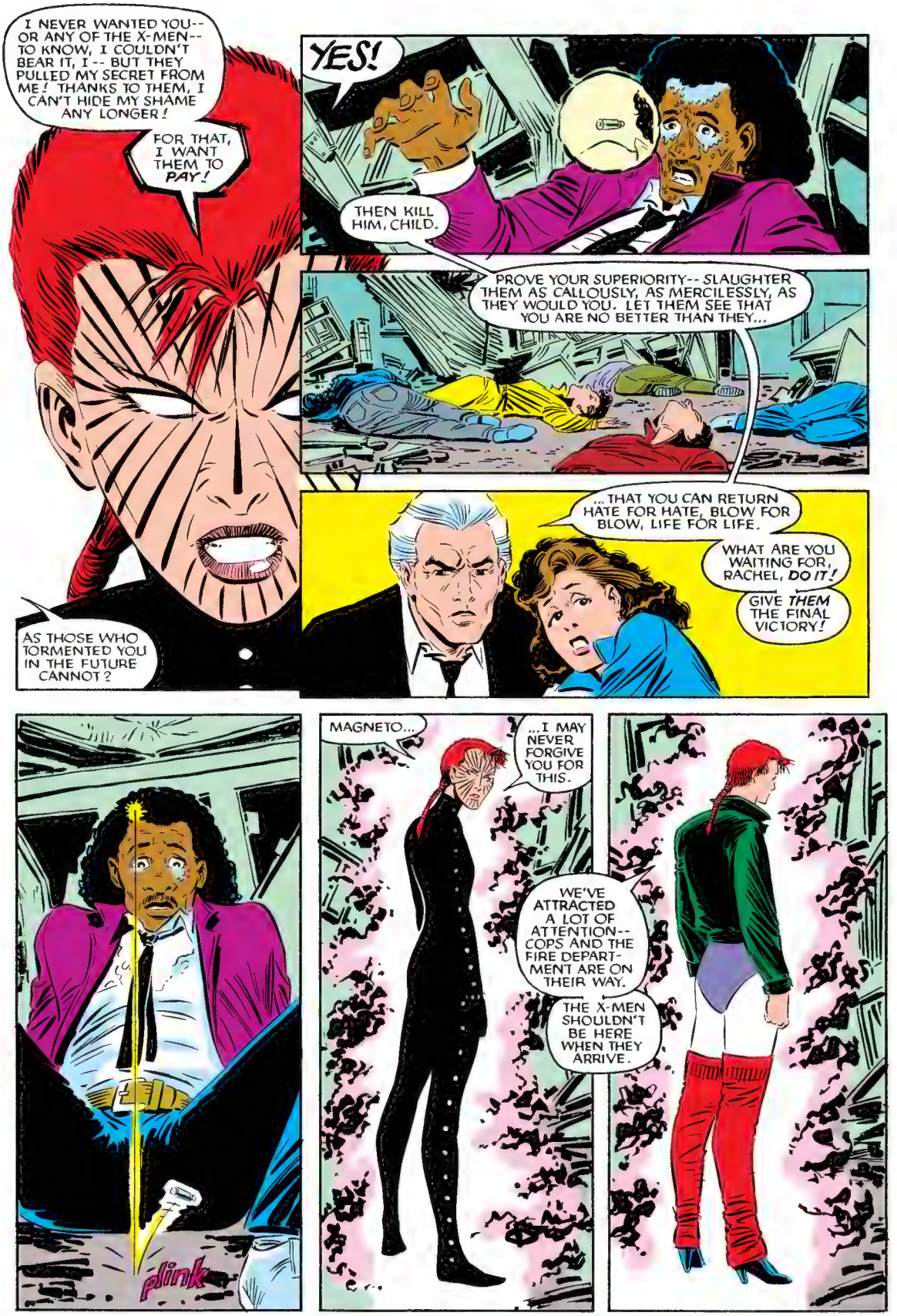

AND, AT XAVIER'S OFFICE...
...ONLY I SEEM AWARE OF THE PRESENCE-- I GUESS, BECAUSE I'M A TELEPATH. I'VE FELT IT HOVERING AROUND THE X-MEN ALL EVENING BUT I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO GET A FIX ON IT SINCE OUR ENCOUNTER IN THE DELI.
I THINK IT'S THE BEYONDER-- YET HIS PSYCHIC EMANATIONS HAVE CHANGED MARKEDLY SINCE WE FOUGHT IN LOS ANGELES. HE SEEMS... DIFFERENT-- IN MIND AS WELL AS APPEARANCE.
PERHAPS HE'S GROWING UP?
EVOLUTION--IN A GOD, XAVIER? ISN'T THAT A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS? IF HE IS THE BE-ALL AND END-ALL OF EXISTENCE, WHAT THEN IS LEFT FOR HIM TO LEARN?
PROFESSOR XAVIER-- MAGNETO-- HE'S HERE!
BUT--THE ROOM IS EMPTY!
I'LL MINDLINK THE THREE OF US-- THAT'LL ALLOW YOU ACCESS TO MY ENHANCED PERCEPTIONS--
-- THEN YOU'LL SEE!
BUT RACHEL'S USE OF HER PSI-POWERS...
... TRIPS THE BOOBY-TRAP PLANTED IN XAVIER'S OFFICE.
IT'S CALLED A PSI-SCREAM--
--AND IT'S DESIGNED TO AMPLIFY ANY AMOUNT OF PSCHIC ENERGY USED IN ITS VICINITY A HUNDRED-FOLD...
... AND REFLECT IT BACK ON ITS SOURCE.
TO RACHEL-- HER SENSES AND PERCEPTIONS HEIGHTENED TO THEIR ULTIMATE EXTENT, HER DEFENSES EQUALLY VULNERABLE--
-- IT'S AS IF HER VERY BLOOD HAS JUST BEEN TRANSFORMED TO ACID.
SHE SCREAMS WITH ALL HER HEART...

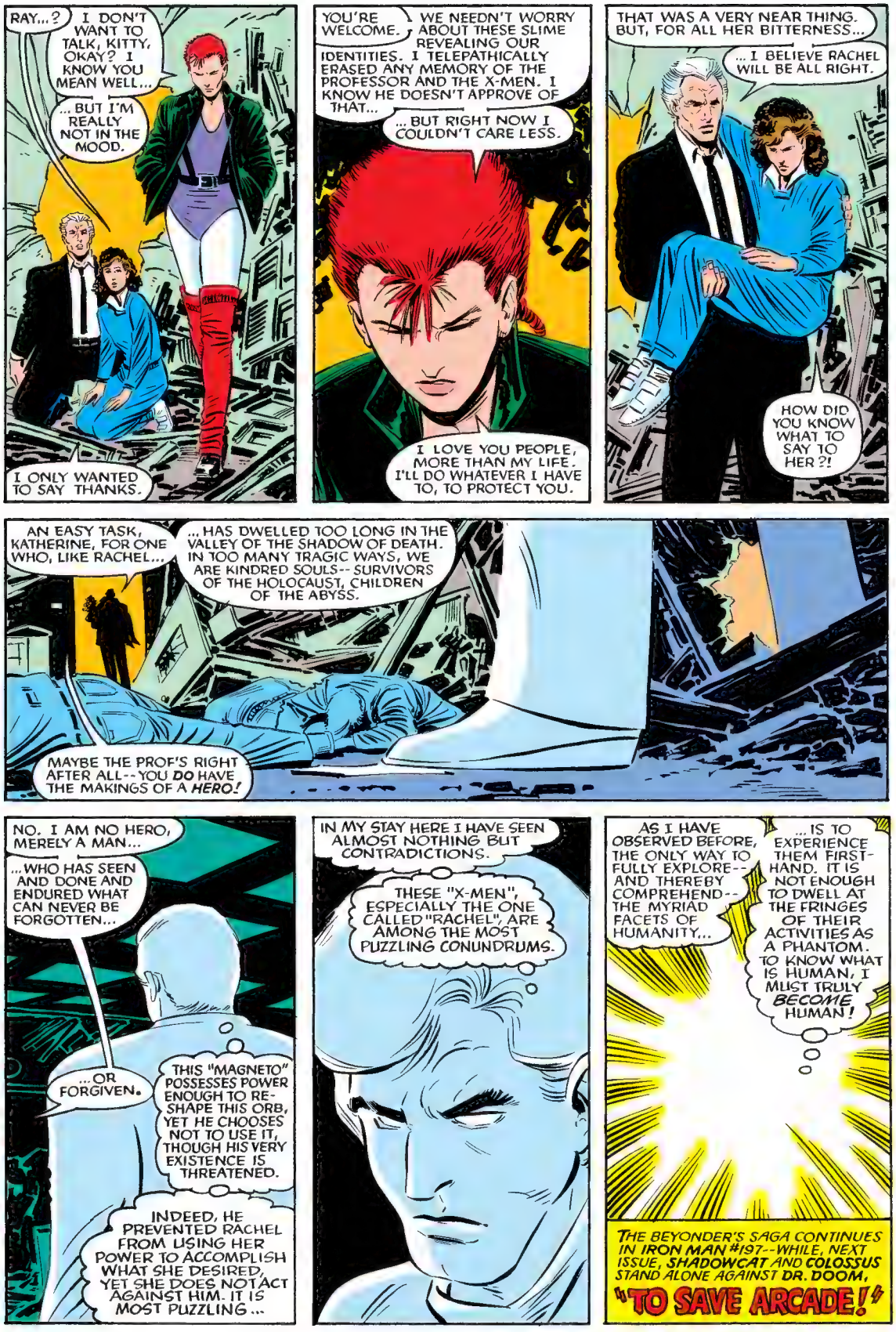

... AND LASHES OUT...
... WITH ALL HER STRENGTH!
BOSZHE MOY!
CHARLEY AN' MAGNETO--?!
AH'LL CATCH 'EM!
PROF'S KAYOED, WOLVIE--
-- BUT MAGGIE LOOKS OKAY!
BUT WHAT ABOUT RACHEL?!
COLOSSUS-- GET ME UP THERE-- A FASTBALL SPECIAL!
SNIKT
EVEN AS THE BIG RUSSIAN BECOMES HIS ARMORED SELF, WOLVERINE EXTENDS RAZOR-KEEN ADAMANTIUM CLAWS FROM THEIR BIONIC HOUSINGS BUILT INTO HIS HANDS AND FOREARMS.
RAY? HOW YOU DOIN', GAL?! RACHEL?!!
WHAT A MESS!
NO UNKNOWN HUMAN SCENTS NEARBY, NO RESIDUE OF CORDITE OR PLASTIQUE--I DON'T GET IT! IF A BOMB DIDN'T DO THIS, WHAT THE HECK DID?!
KITTY!
UNLESS-- THE KID'S CRYING!
SHE'S A TELEKINETIC-- WAS SHE THE CAUSE? BUT WHY-- ?!?
Uh-oh!
MY KATE!!


THEY'RE KILLING HER!
Huh?!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT, GIRL, WHO ARE YOU?!
WHERE'D THAT OUTFIT COME FROM-- AND HER FACE--!?!
JUST AS THEY TRIED TO MURDER PROFESSOR XAVIER!
RAY, WHERE ARE YOU GOIN'?! TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING!
RACHEL!
PHIL, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE-- DON'T!
TOO LATE FOR SECOND THOUGHTS, MICKEY!
THAT EXPLOSION WE HEARD MEANS XAVIER'S HISTORY.
BUT WE WON'T BE SAFE UNTIL WE DISPOSE OF THE ONLY WITNESS-- HIS MUTIE PROTEGÉE-- AS WELL.
LEAVE HER ALONE!!!

KITTY?!
I'M IN LUCK, I'M IN TIME, I CAN SENSE A HEARTBEAT--
-- AND HER THOUGHTS ARE AS WONDERFULLY, NORMALLY CHAOTIC AS EVER!
ANOTHER ONE!
NO BIG DEAL. NO PROBLEM.
BLAM!
YOU PUNY, PATHETIC HUMAN--
-- TO THINK YOU COULD TAKE A TELEPATH BY SURPRISE...
...OR THAT YOUR GUN WOULD BE ANY THREAT TO A TELEKINETIC.
STOP!
THE B-B-BULLET-- SOMETHING'S KEEPING IT FROM HITTING ME!
I AM THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM. A MUTANT. MINE IS THE POWER THAT HOLDS THE SHELL AT BAY...
... EVEN AS THE YOUNG LADY STRUGGLES WITH ALL HER CONSIDERABLE MIGHT TO PUSH IT ONWARDS.
RACHEL, I BEG YOU...
... FORBEAR.
IT'S NO LESS THAN THEY WOULD CHEERFULLY HAVE DONE TO US, MAGNETO--

THAT WAS ONCE WHAT I BELIEVED AND SEE WHAT IT HAS ACHIEVED. I AM HUNTED THE WORLD OVER-- MY NAME HAS BECOME ALMOST A SYNONYM FOR MADNESS AND EVIL.
MY CHILDREN HAVE DISOWNED ME. I AM AS FEARED, RACHEL, AS I AM HATED.
AND, WORST OF ALL, THOSE WHOSE LIVES I SOUGHT TO SAFEGUARD, WHOSE BRIGHT FUTURE TO ENSURE, ARE NO BETTER OFF. INDEED, I HAVE PROBABLY MADE THEIR EXISTENCE FAR WORSE.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND-- THESE SCUM BEAT THE PROFESSOR LIKE AN ANIMAL!
--NO MORE THAN THEY DESERVE!
THESE ARE THE KILLERS HE SET US TO FIND, UNAWARE THAT HE WAS THE VICTIM! I SEE THE THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES IN THEIR MINDS! THEY'D HAVE MURDERED KITTY, TOO, IF I HADN'T PREVENTED IT!
THERE'S NO REMORSE IN THEM, NO PITY-- WE'RE MUTIES! WE'RE NOT REAL PEOPLE, WE'RE INHUMAN-- ALIEN-- THINGS!
THEIRS IS A HATRED BORN OF IGNORANCE AND FEAR.
WILL YOU NOW, BY YOUR ACTIONS, JUSTIFY THAT FEAR-- AND THE HATE?!
LOOK AT WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO ME! IN THESE CLOTHES, IN MY OWN ERA, AS A "HOUND," I HUNTED MUTANTS!
HUMANS LIKE THEM MADE ME DO THAT AND WORSE. I KILLED, MAGNETO, PEOPLE I KNEW AND SOME I... I... LOVED.


I NEVER WANTED YOU-- OR ANY OF THE X-MEN-- TO KNOW, I COULDN'T BEAR IT, I -- BUT THEY PULLED MY SECRET FROM ME! THANKS TO THEM, I CAN'T HIDE MY SHAME ANY LONGER!
FOR THAT, I WANT THEM TO PAY!
AS THOSE WHO TORMENTED YOU IN THE FUTURE CANNOT?
YES!
THEN KILL HIM, CHILD.
PROVE YOUR SUPERIORITY-- SLAUGHTER THEM AS CALLOUSLY, AS MERCILESSLY, AS THEY WOULD YOU. LET THEM SEE THAT YOU ARE NO BETTER THAN THEY...
...THAT YOU CAN RETURN HATE FOR HATE, BLOW FOR BLOW, LIFE FOR LIFE.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, RACHEL, DO IT!
GIVE THEM THE FINAL VICTORY!
plink
MAGNETO...
...I MAY NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR THIS.
WE'VE ATTRACTED A LOT OF ATTENTION-- COPS AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ARE ON THEIR WAY.
THE X-MEN SHOULDN'T BE HERE WHEN THEY ARRIVE.


RAY...?
I DON'T WANT TO TALK, KITTY, OKAY? I KNOW YOU MEAN WELL...
...BUT I'M REALLY NOT IN THE MOOD.
I ONLY WANTED TO SAY THANKS.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
WE NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THESE SLIME REVEALING OUR IDENTITIES. I TELEPATHICALLY ERASED ANY MEMORY OF THE PROFESSOR AND THE X-MEN. I KNOW HE DOESN'T APPROVE OF THAT...
...BUT RIGHT NOW I COULDN'T CARE LESS.
I LOVE YOU PEOPLE, MORE THAN MY LIFE. I'LL DO WHATEVER I HAVE TO, TO PROTECT YOU.
THAT WAS A VERY NEAR THING. BUT, FOR ALL HER BITTERNESS...
...I BELIEVE RACHEL WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
HOW DID YOU KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO HER?!
AN EASY TASK, KATHERINE, FOR ONE WHO, LIKE RACHEL...
...HAS DWELLED TOO LONG IN THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH. IN TOO MANY TRAGIC WAYS, WE ARE KINDRED SOULS-- SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST, CHILDREN OF THE ABYSS.
MAYBE THE PROF'S RIGHT AFTER ALL--YOU DO HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A HERO!
NO. I AM NO HERO, MERELY A MAN...
...WHO HAS SEEN AND DONE AND ENDURED WHAT CAN NEVER BE FORGOTTEN...
...OR FORGIVEN.
THIS "MAGNETO" POSSESSES POWER ENOUGH TO RE-SHAPE THIS ORB, YET HE CHOOSES NOT TO USE IT, THOUGH HIS VERY EXISTENCE IS THREATENED.
INDEED, HE PREVENTED RACHEL FROM USING HER POWER TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT SHE DESIRED, YET SHE DOES NOT ACT AGAINST HIM. IT IS MOST PUZZLING...
IN MY STAY HERE I HAVE SEEN ALMOST NOTHING BUT CONTRADICTIONS.
THESE "X-MEN", ESPECIALLY THE ONE CALLED "RACHEL", ARE AMONG THE MOST PUZZLING CONUNDRUMS.
AS I HAVE OBSERVED BEFORE, THE ONLY WAY TO FULLY EXPLORE-- AND THEREBY COMPREHEND-- THE MYRIAD FACETS OF HUMANITY...
...IS TO EXPERIENCE THEM FIRST-HAND. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO DWELL AT THE FRINGES OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AS A PHANTOM. TO KNOW WHAT IS HUMAN, I MUST TRULY BECOME HUMAN!
THE BEYONDER'S SAGA CONTINUES IN IRON MAN #197--WHILE, NEXT ISSUE, SHADOWCAT AND COLOSSUS STAND ALONE AGAINST DR. DOOM,
"TO SAVE ARCADE!"

MARVEL
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
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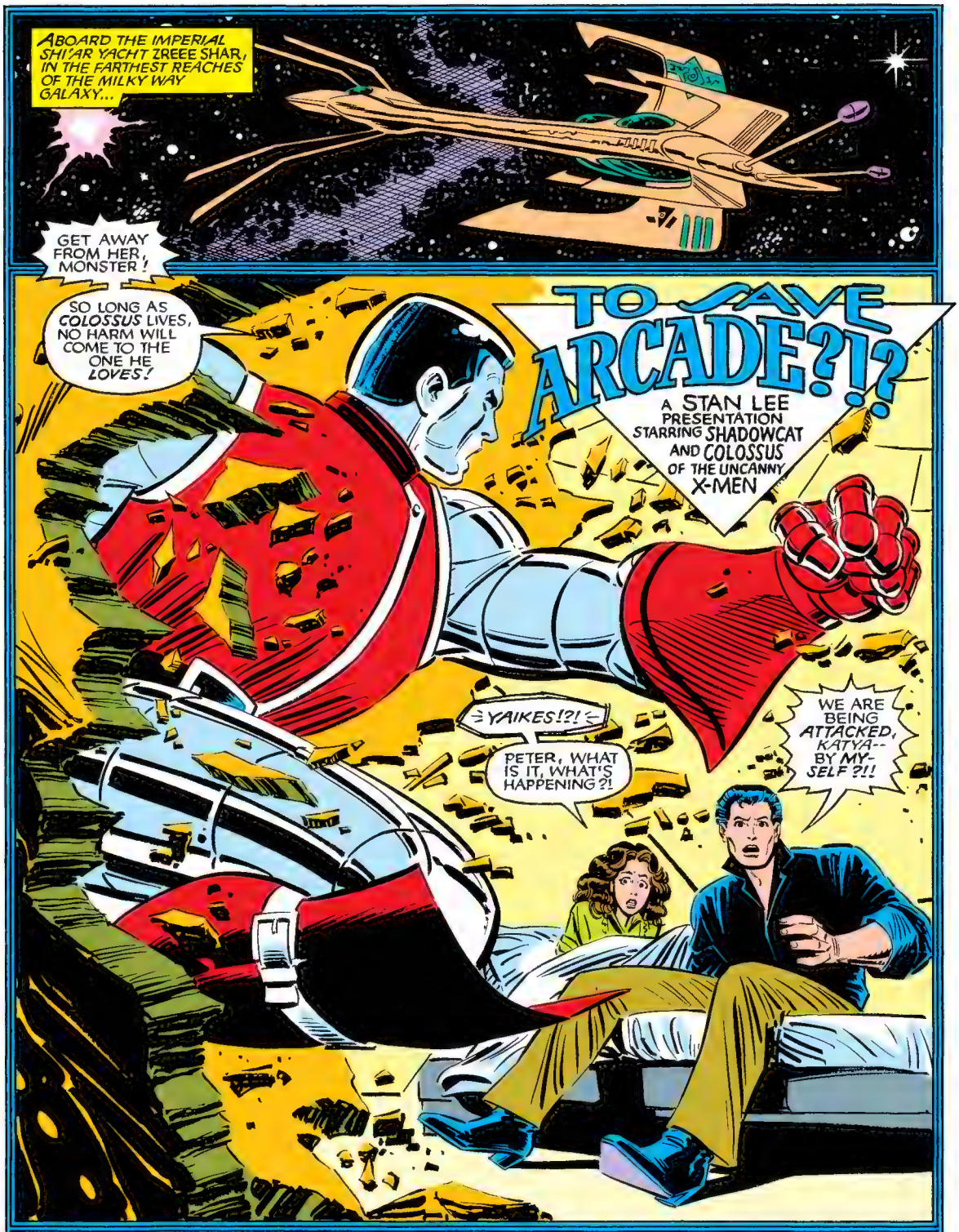
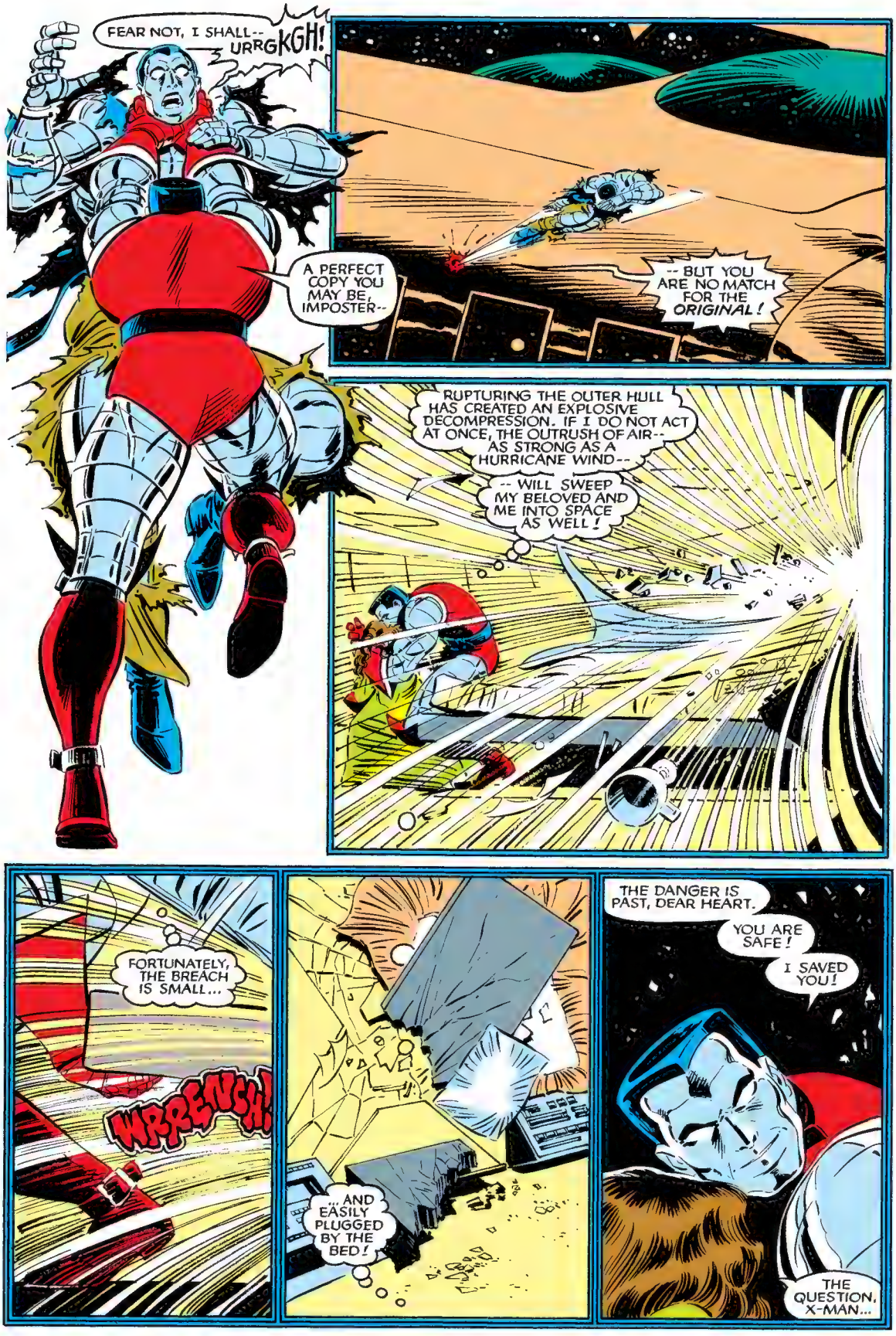
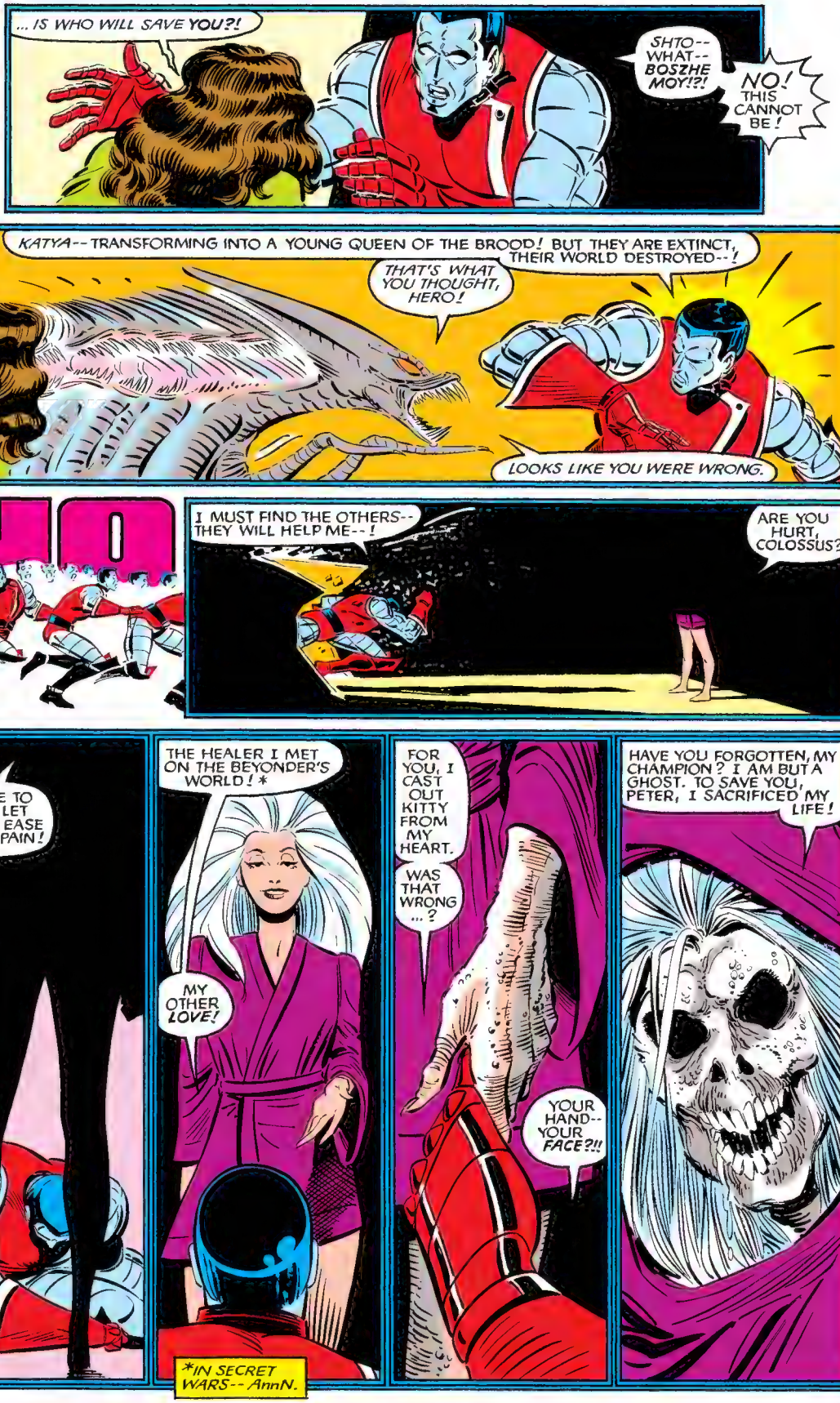
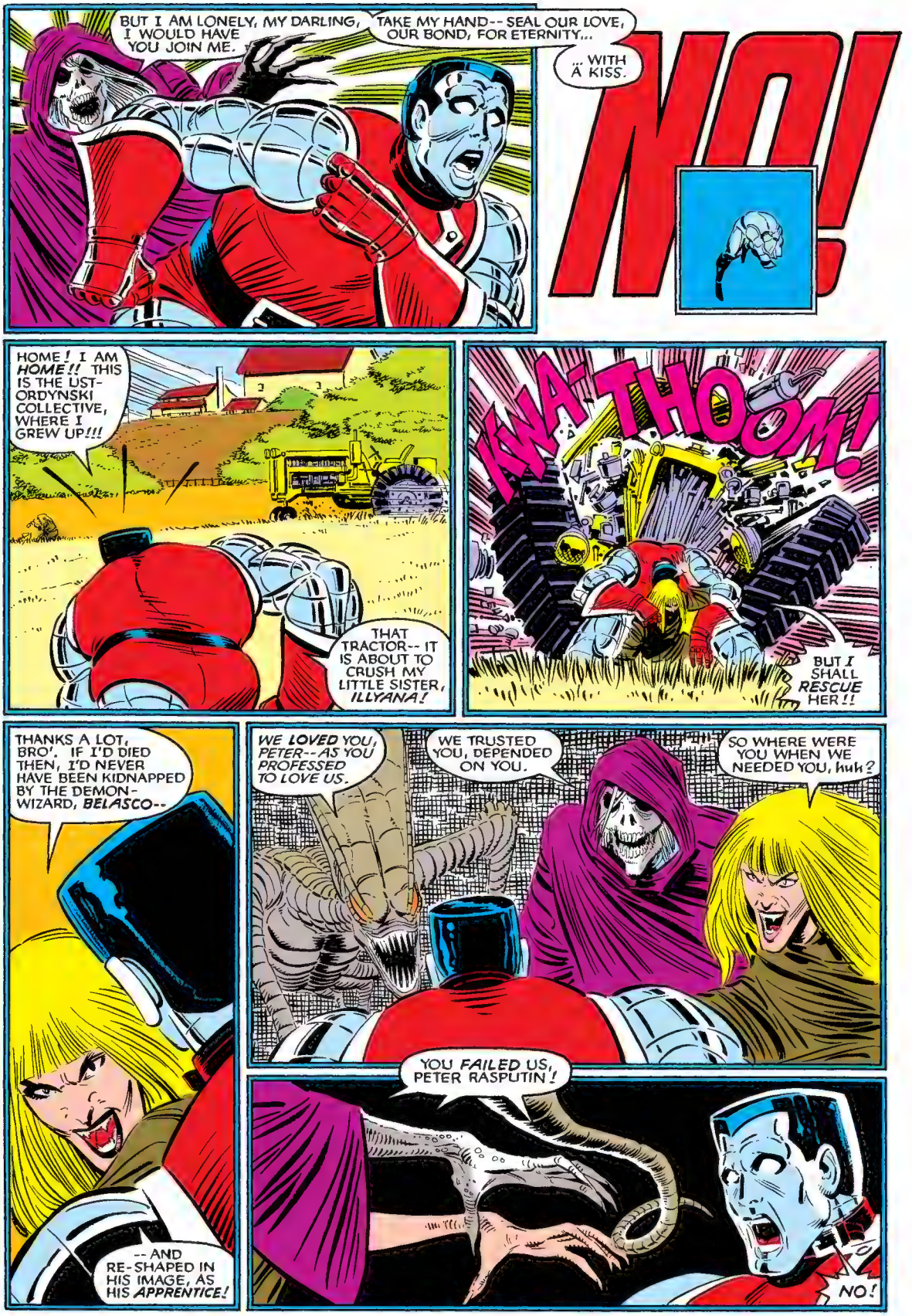
J.R.JR. + D.GREEN

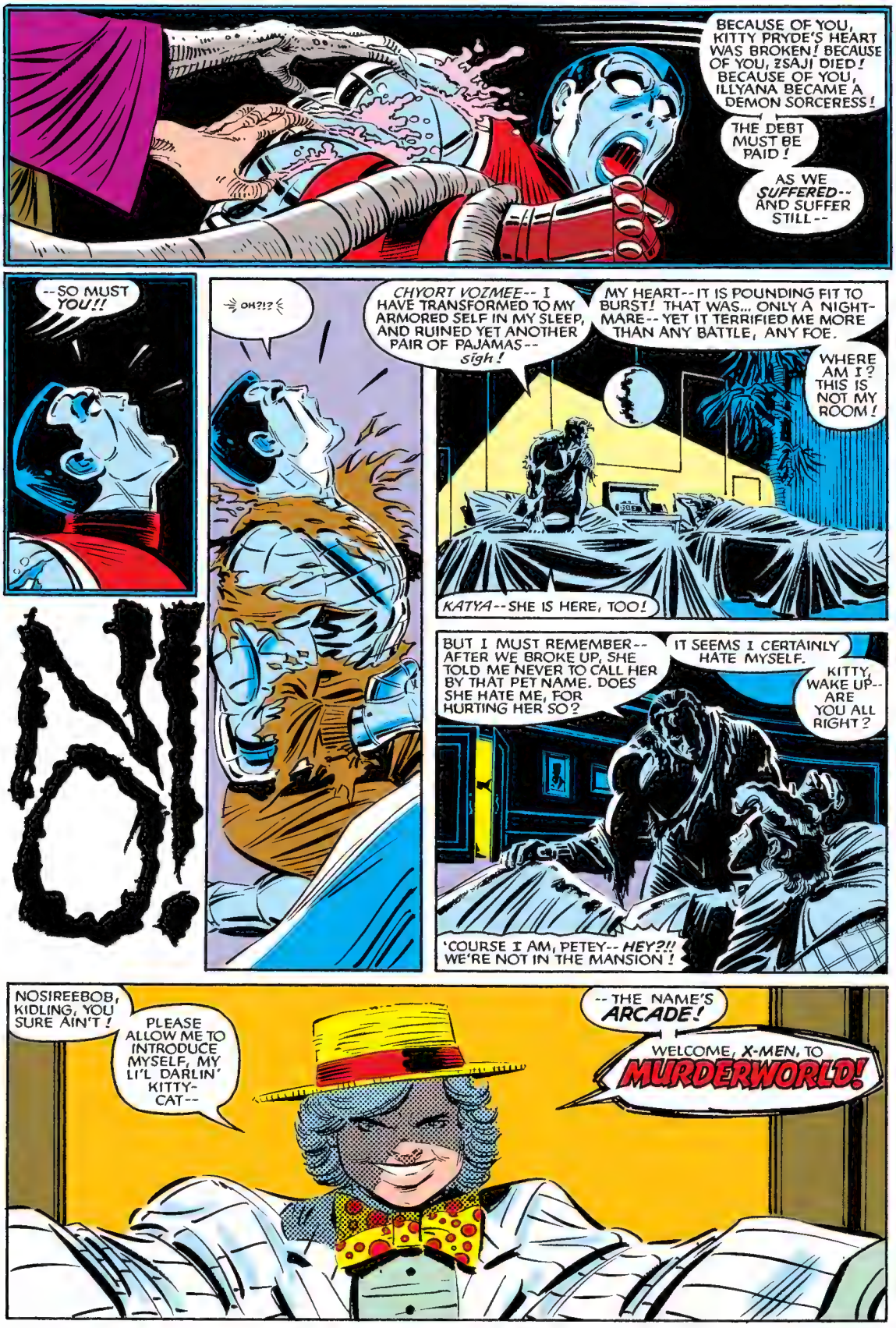

ABOARD THE IMPERIAL SHI'AR YACHT ZREEE SHAR, IN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE MILKY WAY GALAXY...
GET AWAY FROM HER, MONSTER!
SO LONG AS COLOSSUS LIVES, NO HARM WILL COME TO THE ONE HE LOVES!
TO SAVE ARCADE?!?
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION STARRING SHADOWCAT AND COLOSSUS OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN
YAIKES!?!
PETER, WHAT IS IT, WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
WE ARE BEING ATTACKED, KATYA-- BY MY-SELF?!!

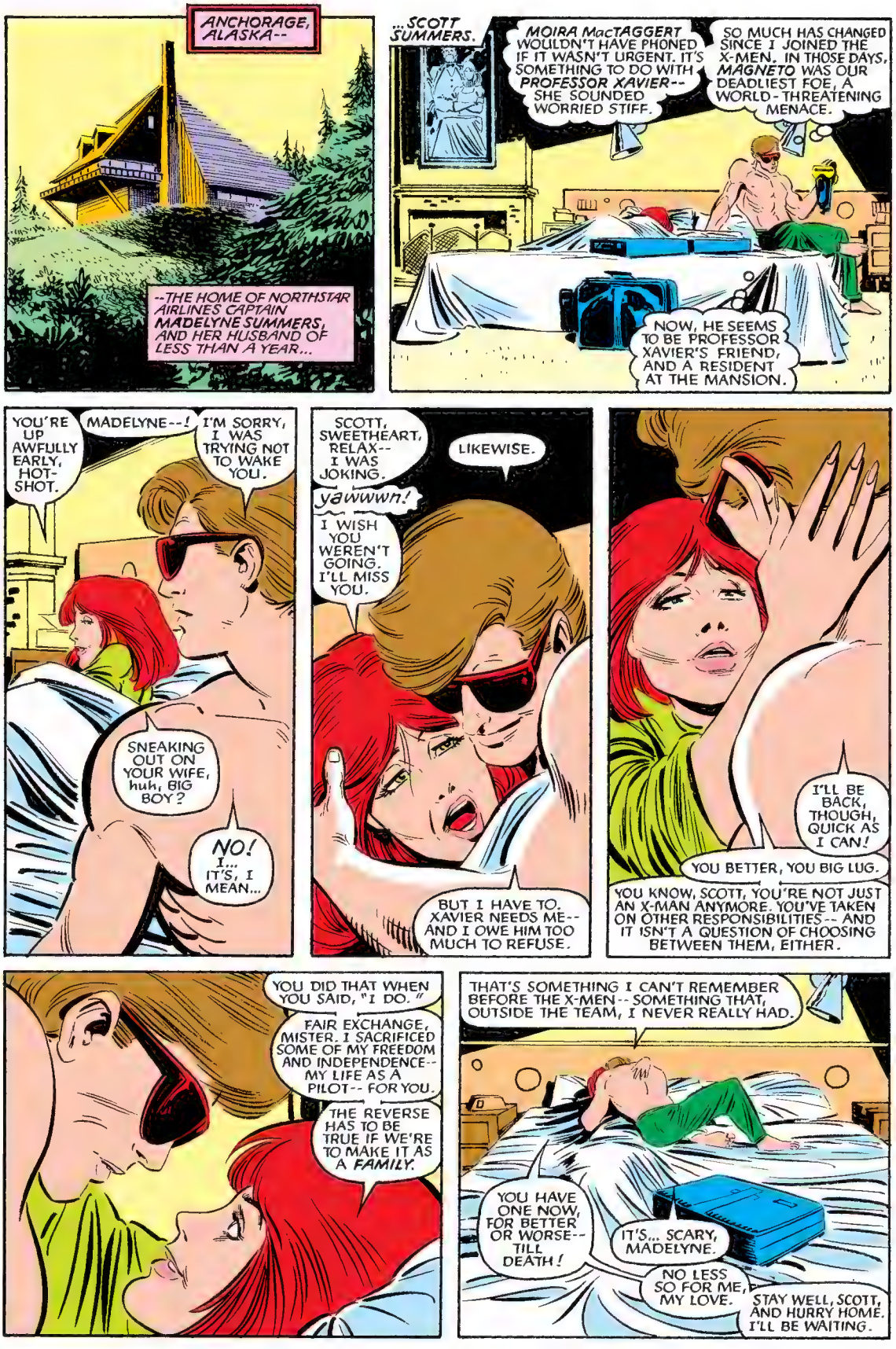
CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER ☆ JOHN ROMITA, Jr. & DAN GREEN, ARTISTS
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, letterer GLYNIS OLIVER, colorist ANN NOCENTI, editor JIM SHOOTER, editor in chief

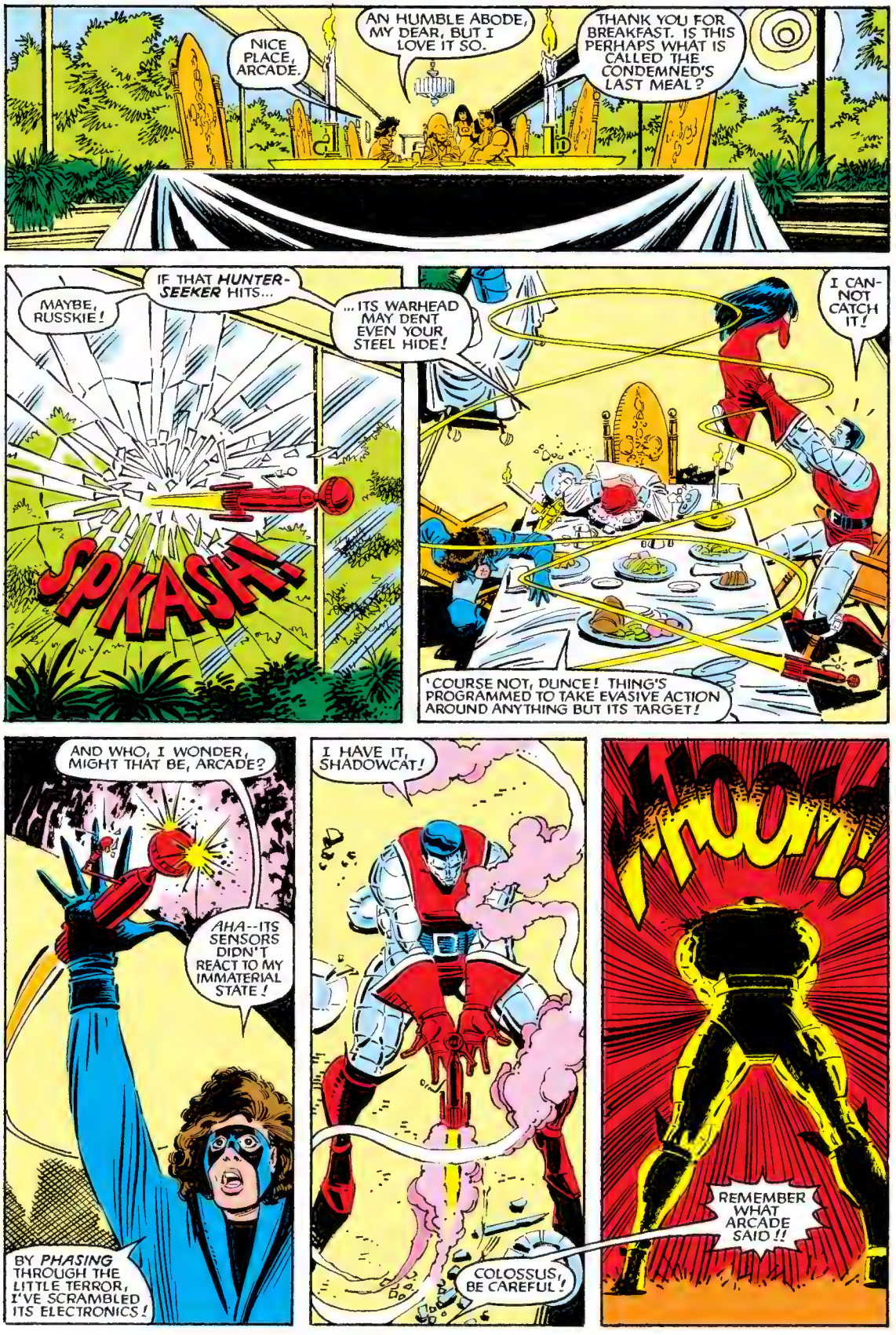

FEAR NOT, I SHALL-- URRGKGH!
A PERFECT COPY YOU MAY BE, IMPOSTER--
-- BUT YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR THE ORIGINAL!
RUPTURING THE OUTER HULL HAS CREATED AN EXPLOSIVE DECOMPRESSION. IF I DO NOT ACT AT ONCE, THE OUTRUSH OF AIR-- AS STRONG AS A HURRICANE WIND--
-- WILL SWEEP MY BELOVED AND ME INTO SPACE AS WELL!
FORTUNATELY, THE BREACH IS SMALL...
WRRENCH!
... AND EASILY PLUGGED BY THE BED!
THE DANGER IS PAST, DEAR HEART.
YOU ARE SAFE!
I SAVED YOU!
THE QUESTION, X-MAN...

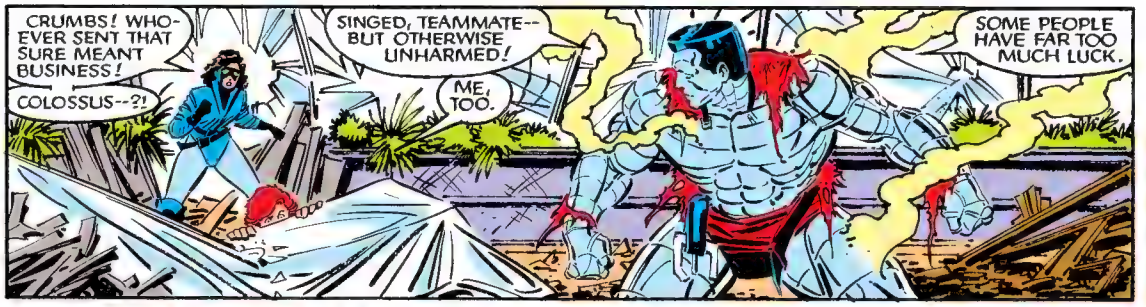

... IS WHO WILL SAVE YOU?!
SHTO-- WHAT-- BOSZHE MOY!?!
NO! THIS CANNOT BE!
KATYA-- TRANSFORMING INTO A YOUNG QUEEN OF THE BROOD! BUT THEY ARE EXTINCT, THEIR WORLD DESTROYED--!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THOUGHT, HERO!
LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE WRONG.
NO
I MUST FIND THE OTHERS-- THEY WILL HELP ME--!
ARE YOU HURT, COLOSSUS?
COME TO ME! LET ZSAJI EASE YOUR PAIN!
THE HEALER I MET ON THE BEYONDER'S WORLD!*
MY OTHER LOVE!
*IN SECRET WARS-- AnnN.
FOR YOU, I CAST OUT KITTY FROM MY HEART.
WAS THAT WRONG ...?
YOUR HAND-- YOUR FACE?!!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, MY CHAMPION? I AM BUT A GHOST. TO SAVE YOU, PETER, I SACRIFICED MY LIFE!

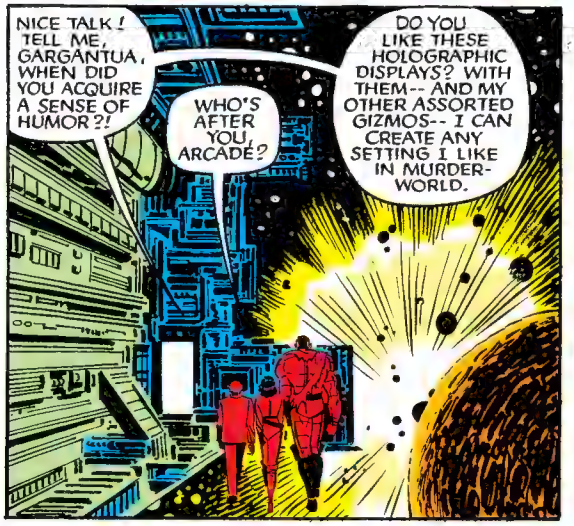

BUT I AM LONELY, MY DARLING, I WOULD HAVE YOU JOIN ME.
TAKE MY HAND-- SEAL OUR LOVE, OUR BOND, FOR ETERNITY...
...WITH A KISS.
NO!
HOME! I AM HOME!! THIS IS THE UST-ORDYNSKI COLLECTIVE, WHERE I GREW UP!!!
THAT TRACTOR-- IT IS ABOUT TO CRUSH MY LITTLE SISTER, ILLYANA!
KWA-THOOM!
BUT I SHALL RESCUE HER!!
THANKS A LOT, BRO'. IF I'D DIED THEN, I'D NEVER HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY THE DEMON-WIZARD, BELASCO--
--AND RE-SHAPED IN HIS IMAGE, AS HIS APPRENTICE!
WE LOVED YOU, PETER--AS YOU PROFESSED TO LOVE US.
WE TRUSTED YOU, DEPENDED ON YOU.
SO WHERE WERE YOU WHEN WE NEEDED YOU, huh?
YOU FAILED US, PETER RASPUTIN!
NO!

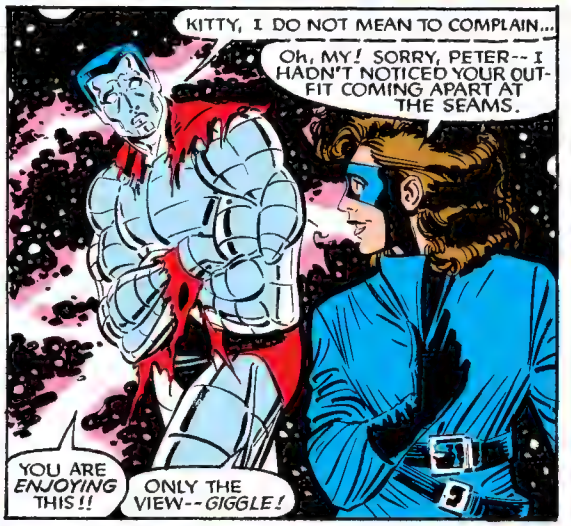

BECAUSE OF YOU, KITTY PRYDE'S HEART WAS BROKEN! BECAUSE OF YOU, ZSAJI DIED! BECAUSE OF YOU, ILLYANA BECAME A DEMON SORCERESS!
THE DEBT MUST BE PAID!
AS WE SUFFERED-- AND SUFFER STILL--
--SO MUST YOU!!
NO!
OH?!?
CHYORT VOZMEE-- I HAVE TRANSFORMED TO MY ARMORED SELF IN MY SLEEP, AND RUINED YET ANOTHER PAIR OF PAJAMAS-- sigh!
MY HEART--IT IS POUNDING FIT TO BURST! THAT WAS... ONLY A NIGHTMARE--YET IT TERRIFIED ME MORE THAN ANY BATTLE, ANY FOE.
WHERE AM I? THIS IS NOT MY ROOM!
KATYA--SHE IS HERE, TOO!
BUT I MUST REMEMBER-- AFTER WE BROKE UP, SHE TOLD ME NEVER TO CALL HER BY THAT PET NAME. DOES SHE HATE ME, FOR HURTING HER SO?
IT SEEMS I CERTAINLY HATE MYSELF.
KITTY, WAKE UP-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
'COURSE I AM, PETEY-- HEY?!! WE'RE NOT IN THE MANSION!
NOSIREEBOB, KIDLING, YOU SURE AIN'T!
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF, MY LI'L DARLIN' KITTY-CAT--
--THE NAME'S ARCADE!
WELCOME, X-MEN, TO MURDERWORLD!


ANCHORAGE, ALASKA--
--THE HOME OF NORTHSTAR AIRLINES CAPTAIN MADELYNE SUMMERS, AND HER HUSBAND OF LESS THAN A YEAR...
...SCOTT SUMMERS.
MOIRA MacTAGGERT WOULDN'T HAVE PHONED IF IT WASN'T URGENT. IT'S SOMETHING TO DO WITH PROFESSOR XAVIER-- SHE SOUNDED WORRIED STIFF.
SO MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE I JOINED THE X-MEN. IN THOSE DAYS, MAGNETO WAS OUR DEADLIEST FOE, A WORLD-THREATENING MENACE.
NOW, HE SEEMS TO BE PROFESSOR XAVIER'S FRIEND, AND A RESIDENT AT THE MANSION.
YOU'RE UP AWFULLY EARLY, HOT-SHOT.
MADELYNE--!
I'M SORRY, I WAS TRYING NOT TO WAKE YOU.
SNEAKING OUT ON YOUR WIFE, huh, BIG BOY?
NO! I... IT'S, I MEAN...
SCOTT, SWEETHEART, RELAX-- I WAS JOKING.
LIKEWISE.
yawwwn!
I WISH YOU WEREN'T GOING. I'LL MISS YOU.
BUT I HAVE TO. XAVIER NEEDS ME-- AND I OWE HIM TOO MUCH TO REFUSE.
I'LL BE BACK, THOUGH, QUICK AS I CAN!
YOU BETTER, YOU BIG LUG.
YOU KNOW, SCOTT, YOU'RE NOT JUST AN X-MAN ANYMORE. YOU'VE TAKEN ON OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES-- AND IT ISN'T A QUESTION OF CHOOSING BETWEEN THEM, EITHER.
YOU DID THAT WHEN YOU SAID, "I DO."
FAIR EXCHANGE, MISTER. I SACRIFICED SOME OF MY FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE-- MY LIFE AS A PILOT-- FOR YOU.
THE REVERSE HAS TO BE TRUE IF WE'RE TO MAKE IT AS A FAMILY.
THAT'S SOMETHING I CAN'T REMEMBER BEFORE THE X-MEN-- SOMETHING THAT, OUTSIDE THE TEAM, I NEVER REALLY HAD.
YOU HAVE ONE NOW, FOR BETTER OR WORSE-- TILL DEATH!
IT'S... SCARY, MADELYNE.
NO LESS SO FOR ME, MY LOVE.
STAY WELL, SCOTT, AND HURRY HOME. I'LL BE WAITING.


NICE PLACE, ARCADE.
AN HUMBLE ABODE, MY DEAR, BUT I LOVE IT SO.
THANK YOU FOR BREAKFAST. IS THIS PERHAPS WHAT IS CALLED THE CONDEMNED'S LAST MEAL?
MAYBE, RUSSKIE!
IF THAT HUNTER-SEEKER HITS...
...ITS WARHEAD MAY DENT EVEN YOUR STEEL HIDE!
SPKASH!
I CAN-NOT CATCH IT!
'COURSE NOT, DUNCE! THING'S PROGRAMMED TO TAKE EVASIVE ACTION AROUND ANYTHING BUT ITS TARGET!
AND WHO, I WONDER, MIGHT THAT BE, ARCADE?
AHA--ITS SENSORS DIDN'T REACT TO MY IMMATERIAL STATE!
BY PHASING THROUGH THE LITTLE TERROR, I'VE SCRAMBLED ITS ELECTRONICS!
I HAVE IT, SHADOWCAT!
COLOSSUS, BE CAREFUL!
THUD!
REMEMBER WHAT ARCADE SAID!!

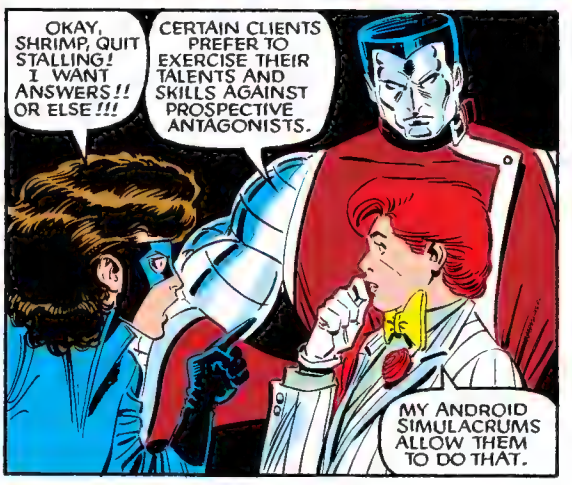

CRUMBS! WHOEVER SENT THAT SURE MEANT BUSINESS!
COLOSSUS--?!
SINGED, TEAMMATE-- BUT OTHERWISE UNHARMED!
ME, TOO.
SOME PEOPLE HAVE FAR TOO MUCH LUCK.

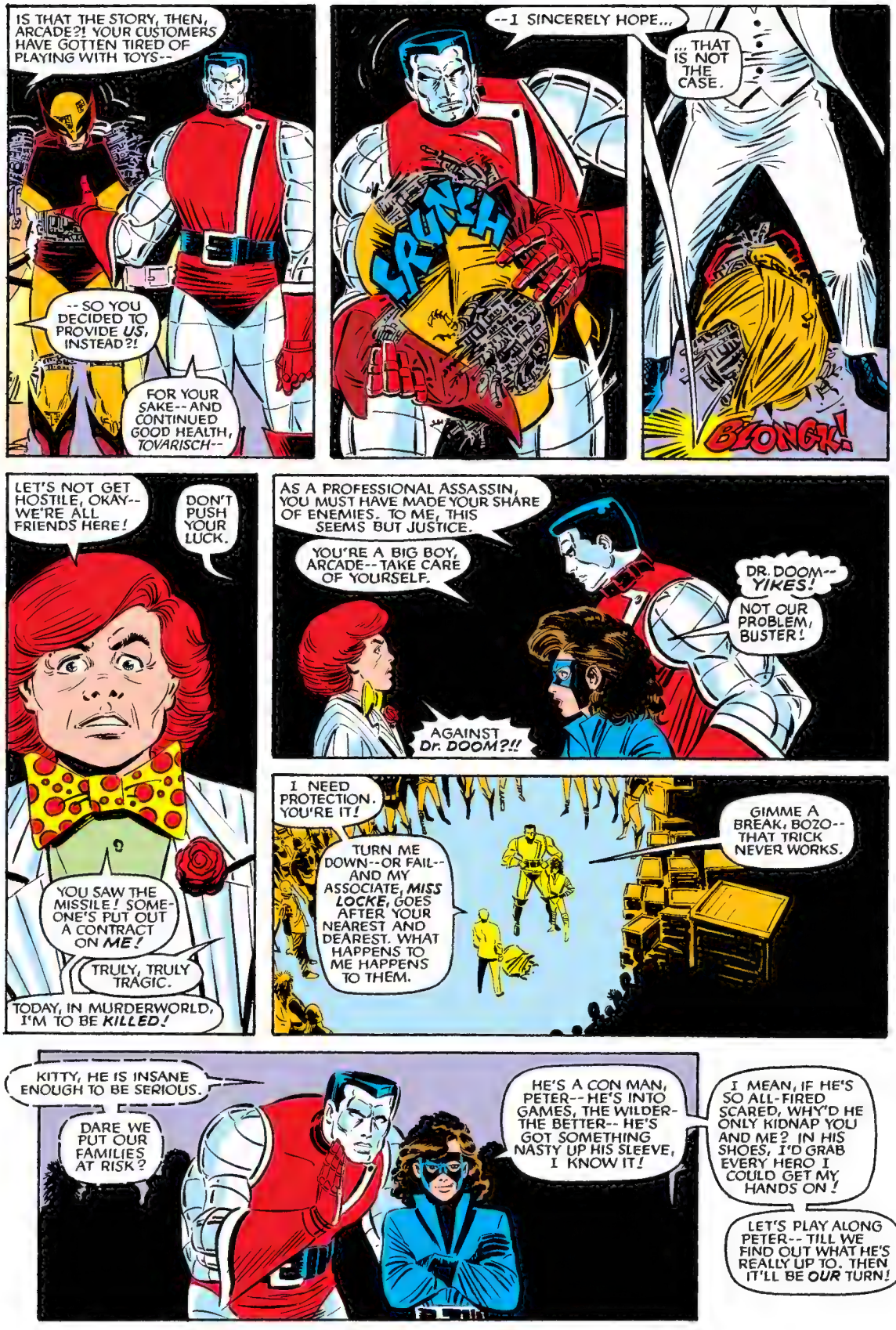

NICE TALK! TELL ME, GARGANTUA, WHEN DID YOU ACQUIRE A SENSE OF HUMOR?!
WHO'S AFTER YOU, ARCADE?
DO YOU LIKE THESE HOLOGRAPHIC DISPLAYS? WITH THEM-- AND MY OTHER ASSORTED GIZMOS-- I CAN CREATE ANY SETTING I LIKE IN MURDERWORLD.

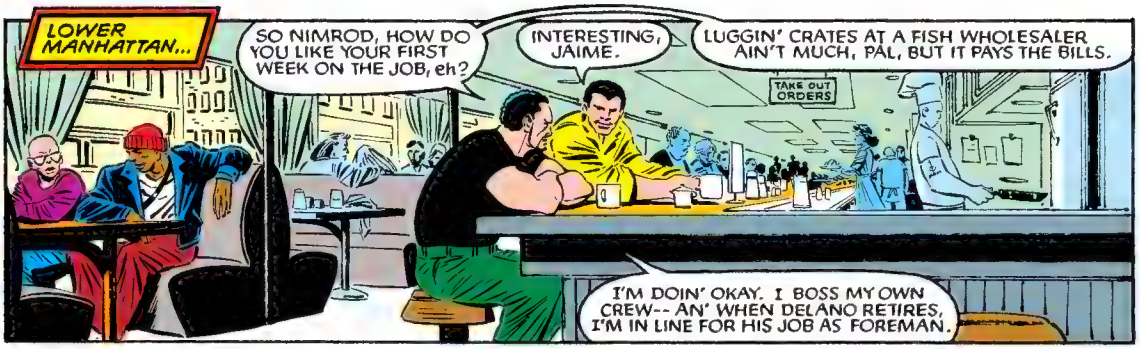

KITTY, I DO NOT MEAN TO COMPLAIN...
Oh, MY! SORRY, PETER-- I HADN'T NOTICED YOUR OUTFIT COMING APART AT THE SEAMS.
YOU ARE ENJOYING THIS!!
ONLY THE VIEW--GIGGLE!

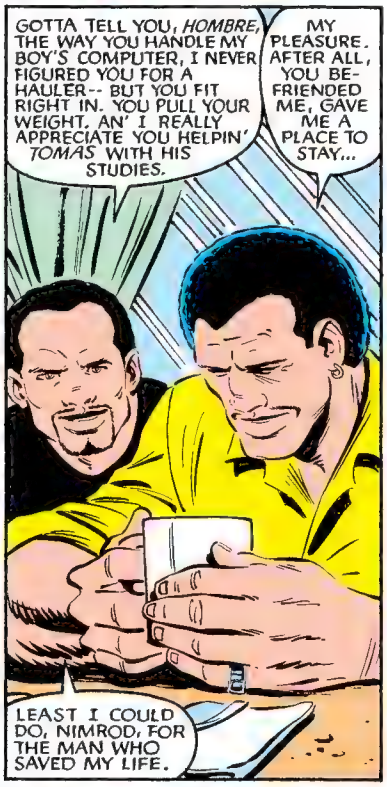
NO PROBLEM, MY MAN-MOUNTAIN MUTIE!
I GOT X-COSTUMES GALORE!
THE ROBOTS MIMIC YOUR POWERS, TOO. PRETTY DARN FIRST-RATE JOB, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF. YOU'RE WELCOME TO USE 'EM. BE LIKE WORKING WITH THE ENTIRE TEAM.

ARCADE!?!
HARDLY.
CUTE, huh?
THEY'RE MY "BARBIE DOLLS," BABE.
I BUILD THEM, I DRESS THEM AS I LIKE.


OKAY, SHRIMP, QUIT STALLING! I WANT ANSWERS!! OR ELSE!!!
CERTAIN CLIENTS PREFER TO EXERCISE THEIR TALENTS AND SKILLS AGAINST PROSPECTIVE ANTAGONISTS.
MY ANDROID SIMULACRUMS ALLOW THEM TO DO THAT.


IS THAT THE STORY, THEN, ARCADE?! YOUR CUSTOMERS HAVE GOTTEN TIRED OF PLAYING WITH TOYS--
--SO YOU DECIDED TO PROVIDE US, INSTEAD?!
FOR YOUR SAKE--AND CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH, TOVARISCH--
--I SINCERELY HOPE...
CRUNCH
...THAT IS NOT THE CASE.
BYONG!
LET'S NOT GET HOSTILE, OKAY--WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE!
DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.
YOU SAW THE MISSILE! SOMEONE'S PUT OUT A CONTRACT ON ME!
TRULY, TRULY TRAGIC.
TODAY, IN MURDERWORLD, I'M TO BE KILLED!
AS A PROFESSIONAL ASSASSIN, YOU MUST HAVE MADE YOUR SHARE OF ENEMIES. TO ME, THIS SEEMS BUT JUSTICE.
YOU'RE A BIG BOY, ARCADE--TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
DR. DOOM--YIKES!
NOT OUR PROBLEM, BUSTER!
AGAINST Dr. DOOM?!!
I NEED PROTECTION. YOU'RE IT!
TURN ME DOWN--OR FAIL--AND MY ASSOCIATE, MISS LOCKE, GOES AFTER YOUR NEAREST AND DEAREST. WHAT HAPPENS TO ME HAPPENS TO THEM.
GIMME A BREAK, BOZO--THAT TRICK NEVER WORKS.
KITTY, HE IS INSANE ENOUGH TO BE SERIOUS.
DARE WE PUT OUR FAMILIES AT RISK?
HE'S A CON MAN, PETER--HE'S INTO GAMES, THE WILDER-THE BETTER--HE'S GOT SOMETHING NASTY UP HIS SLEEVE, I KNOW IT!
I MEAN, IF HE'S SO ALL-FIRED SCARED, WHY'D HE ONLY KIDNAP YOU AND ME? IN HIS SHOES, I'D GRAB EVERY HERO I COULD GET MY HANDS ON!
LET'S PLAY ALONG PETER--TILL WE FIND OUT WHAT HE'S REALLY UP TO. THEN IT'LL BE OUR TURN!

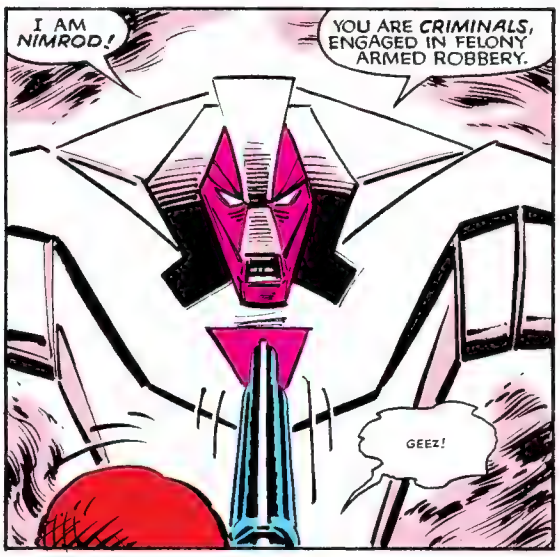

LOWER MANHATTAN...
SO NIMROD, HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR FIRST WEEK ON THE JOB, eh?
INTERESTING, JAIME.
LUGGIN' CRATES AT A FISH WHOLESALER AIN'T MUCH, PAL, BUT IT PAYS THE BILLS.
TAKE OUT ORDERS
I'M DOIN' OKAY. I BOSS MY OWN CREW-- AN' WHEN DELANO RETIRES, I'M IN LINE FOR HIS JOB AS FOREMAN.

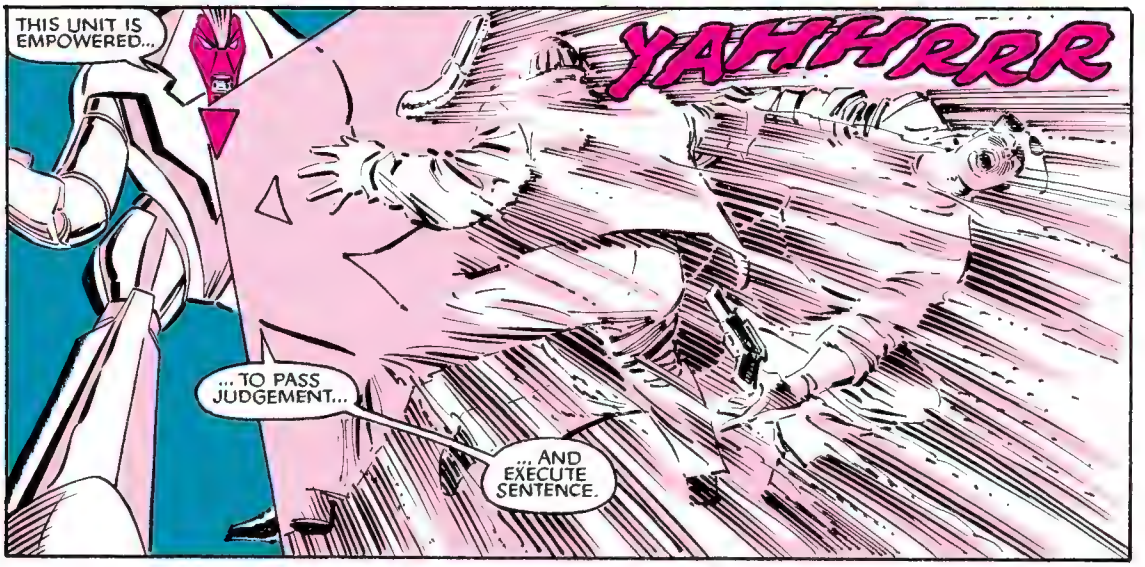

GOTTA TELL YOU, HOMBRE, THE WAY YOU HANDLE MY BOY'S COMPUTER, I NEVER FIGURED YOU FOR A HAULER-- BUT YOU FIT RIGHT IN. YOU PULL YOUR WEIGHT, AN' I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU HELPIN' TOMAS WITH HIS STUDIES.
MY PLEASURE. AFTER ALL, YOU BE-FRIENDED ME, GAVE ME A PLACE TO STAY...
LEAST I COULD DO, NIMROD, FOR THE MAN WHO SAVED MY LIFE.

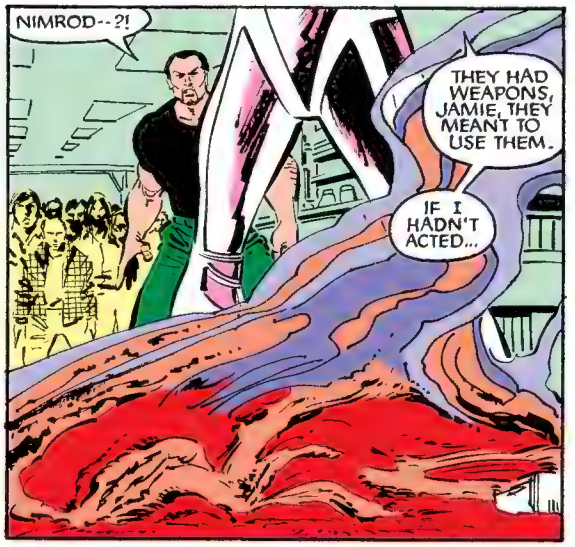
FREEZE, CHUMPS!
PAYDAY FOR YOU--
--MEANS PAYDAY FOR US!
MONEY ONNA TABLES-- NOW!

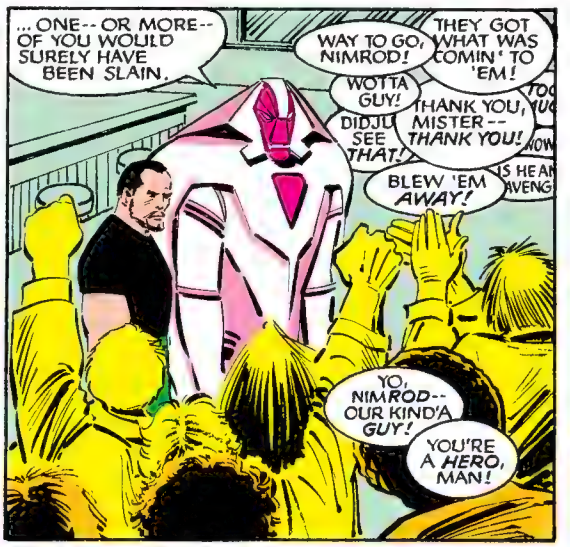
PRETTY NICE NECKLACE, MAMA-- HAND IT OVER!
DON'T YOU LOOK CROSS-EYED AT ME, SHADE! YOU COME ON LIKE A HERO--

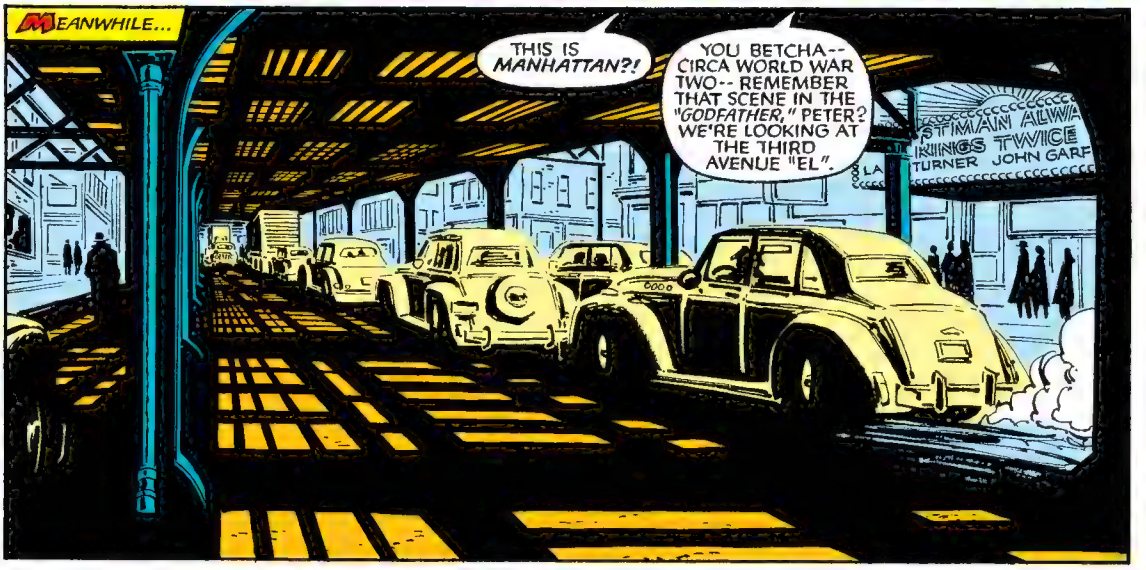
-- I'LL SPLATTER YOU--?!?
IS THAT SO?
WHO ARE YOU, DUDE?! WHA'CHU DOIN'?!!

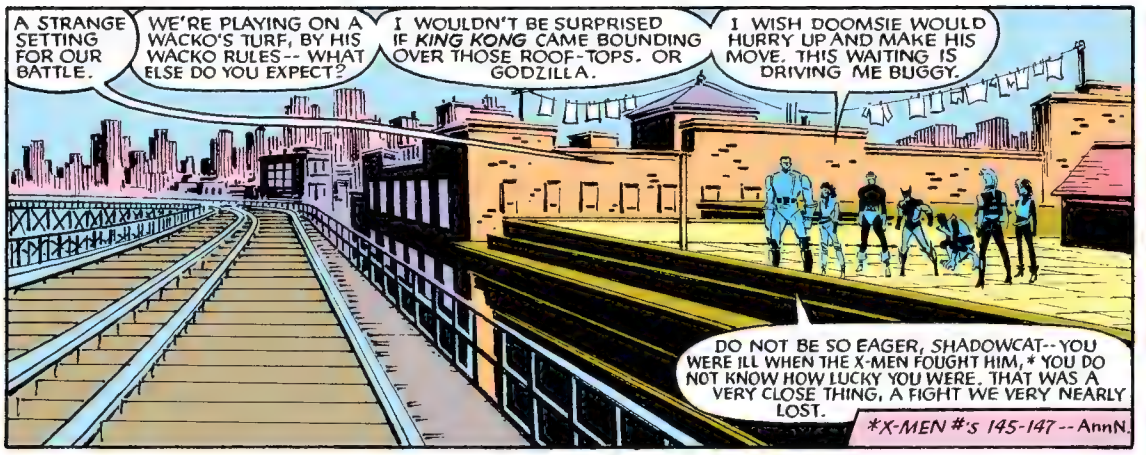

I AM NIMROD!
YOU ARE CRIMINALS, ENGAGED IN FELONY ARMED ROBBERY.
GEEZ!

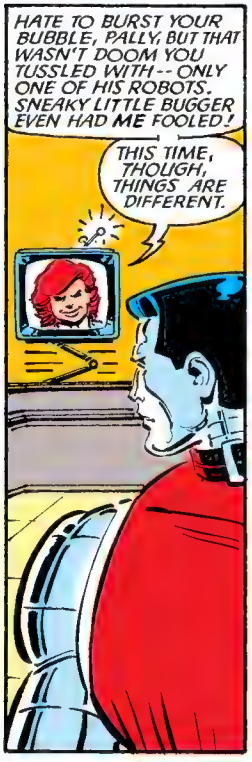

THIS UNIT IS EMPOWERED...
YAHHRRR
...TO PASS JUDGEMENT...
...AND EXECUTE SENTENCE.

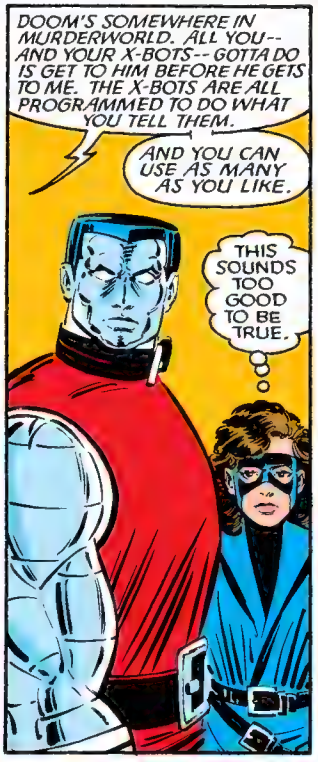

NIMROD--?!
THEY HAD WEAPONS, JAMIE, THEY MEANT TO USE THEM.
IF I HADN'T ACTED...

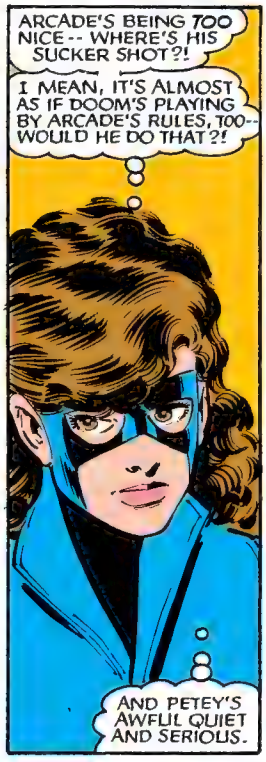

...ONE-- OR MORE-- OF YOU WOULD SURELY HAVE BEEN SLAIN.
WAY TO GO, NIMROD!
THEY GOT WHAT WAS COMIN' TO 'EM!
WOTTA GUY!
DIDJU SEE THAT?
THANK YOU, MISTER-- THANK YOU!
BLEW 'EM AWAY!
YO, NIMROD-- OUR KIND'A GUY!
YOU'RE A HERO, MAN!

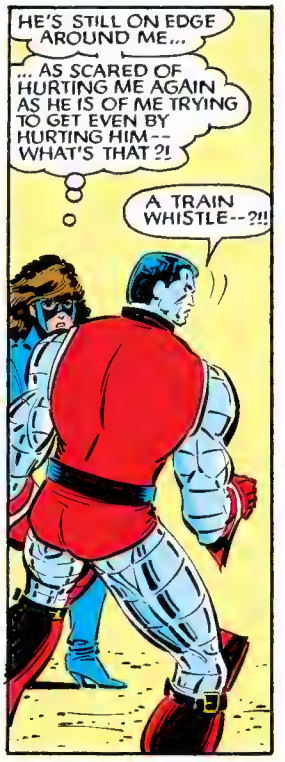

MEANWHILE...
THIS IS MANHATTAN?!
YOU BETCHA-- CIRCA WORLD WAR TWO-- REMEMBER THAT SCENE IN THE "GODFATHER," PETER? WE'RE LOOKING AT THE THIRD AVENUE "EL".
STIMAN ALWA
KINGS TWICE
TURNER JOHN GARF

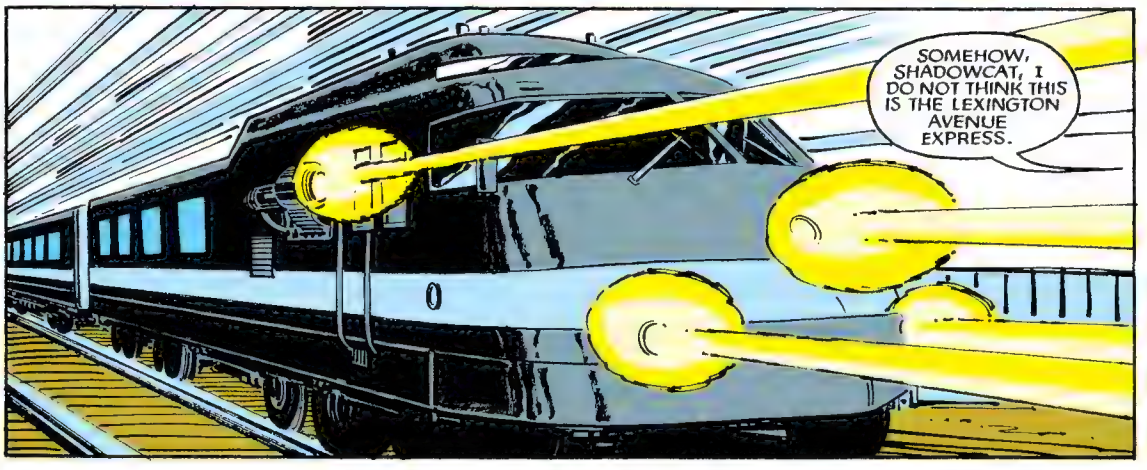

A STRANGE SETTING FOR OUR BATTLE.
WE'RE PLAYING ON A WACKO'S TURF, BY HIS WACKO RULES-- WHAT ELSE DO YOU EXPECT?
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF KING KONG CAME BOUNDING OVER THOSE ROOF-TOPS. OR GODZILLA.
I WISH DOOMSIE WOULD HURRY UP AND MAKE HIS MOVE. THIS WAITING IS DRIVING ME BUGGY.
DO NOT BE SO EAGER, SHADOWCAT--YOU WERE ILL WHEN THE X-MEN FOUGHT HIM,* YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU WERE. THAT WAS A VERY CLOSE THING, A FIGHT WE VERY NEARLY LOST.
*X-MEN #'s 145-147 -- AnnN.

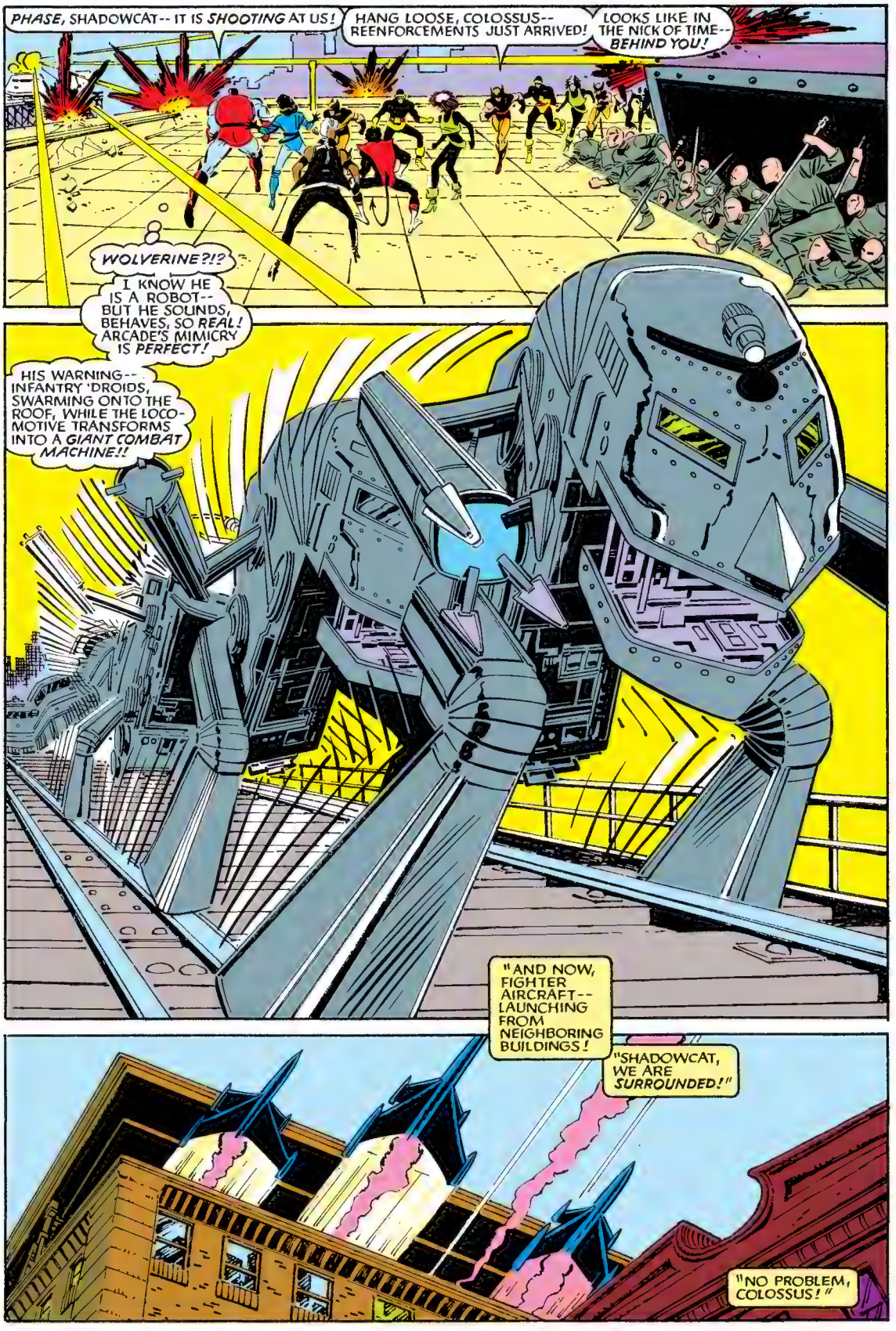

HATE TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE, PALLY, BUT THAT WASN'T DOOM YOU TUSSLED WITH-- ONLY ONE OF HIS ROBOTS. SNEAKY LITTLE BUGGER EVEN HAD ME FOOLED!
THIS TIME, THOUGH, THINGS ARE DIFFERENT.

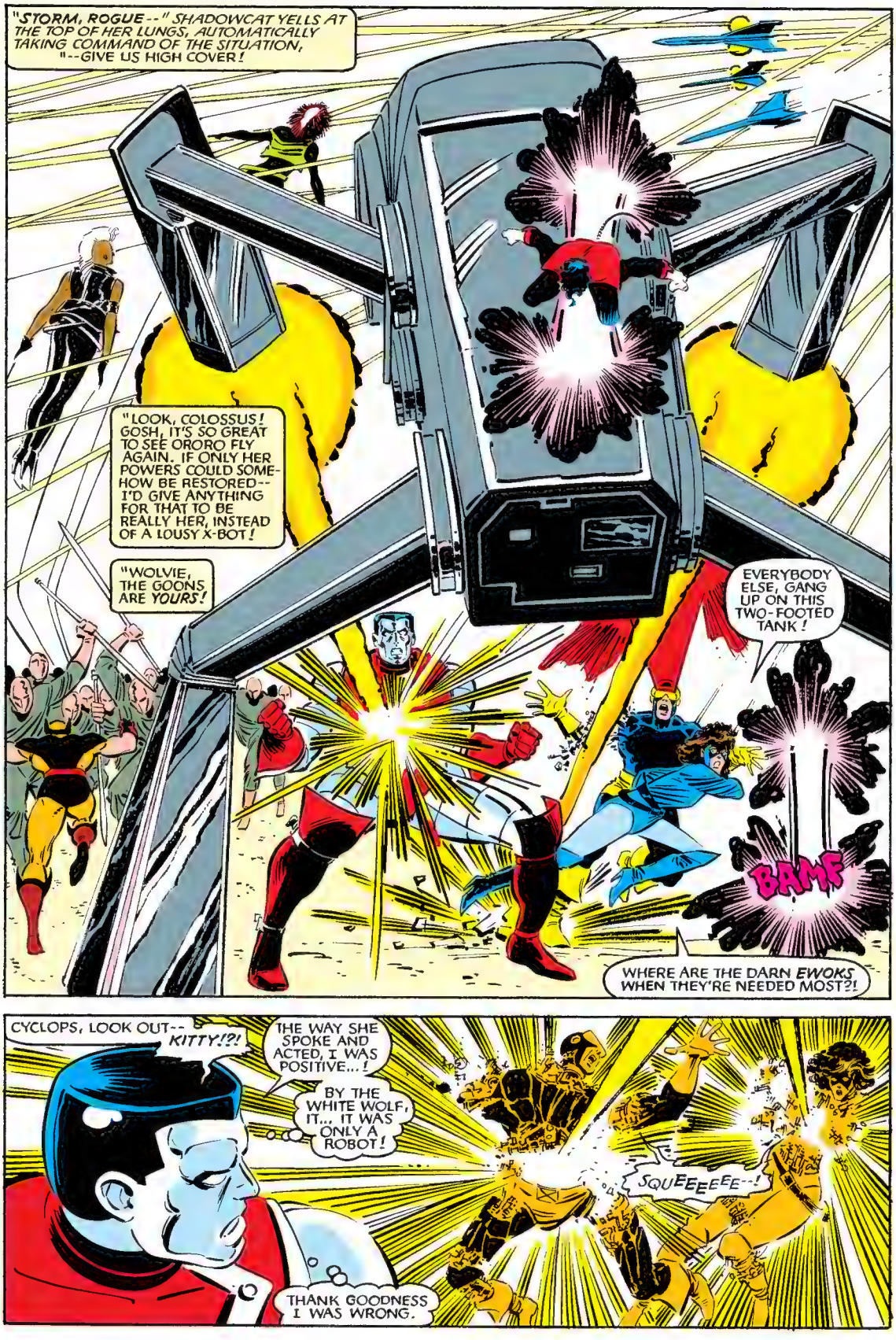

DOOM'S SOMEWHERE IN MURDERWORLD. ALL YOU-- AND YOUR X-BOTS-- GOTTA DO IS GET TO HIM BEFORE HE GETS TO ME. THE X-BOTS ARE ALL PROGRAMMED TO DO WHAT YOU TELL THEM.
AND YOU CAN USE AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.
THIS SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

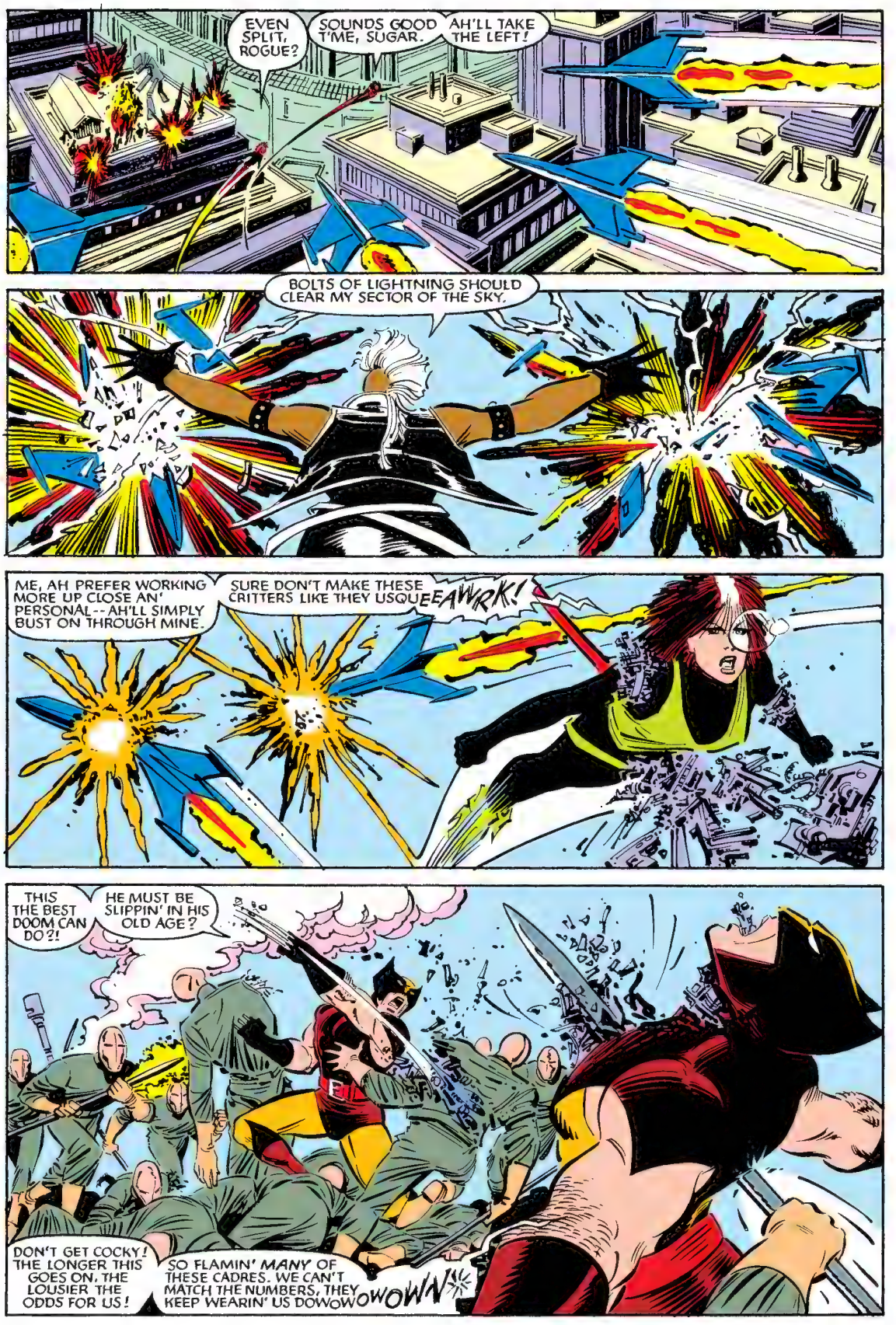

ARCADE'S BEING TOO NICE-- WHERE'S HIS SUCKER SHOT?!
I MEAN, IT'S ALMOST AS IF DOOM'S PLAYING BY ARCADE'S RULES, TOO-- WOULD HE DO THAT?!
AND PETEY'S AWFUL QUIET AND SERIOUS.

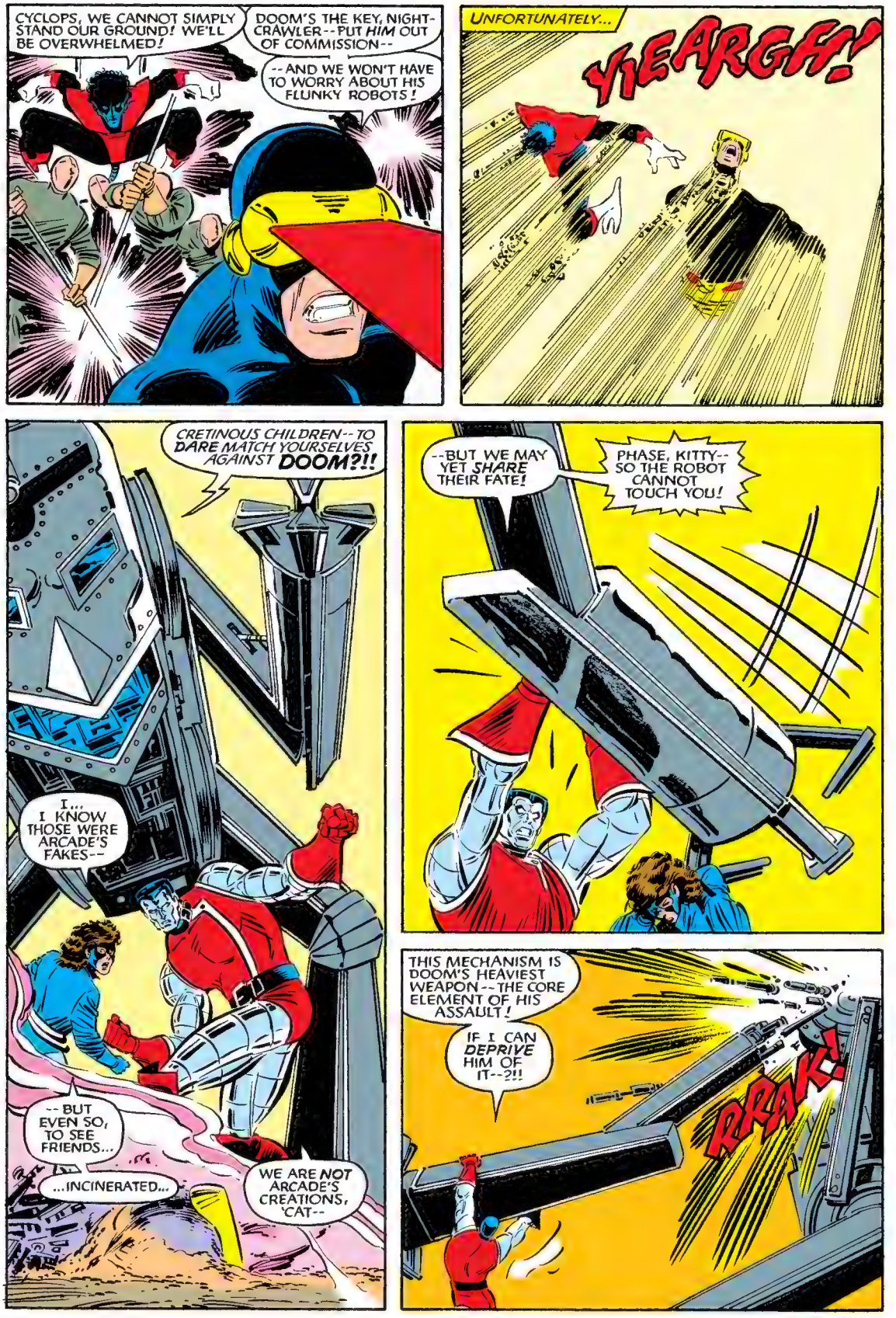

HE'S STILL ON EDGE AROUND ME...
... AS SCARED OF HURTING ME AGAIN AS HE IS OF ME TRYING TO GET EVEN BY HURTING HIM-- WHAT'S THAT?!
A TRAIN WHISTLE--?!!


SOMEHOW, SHADOWCAT, I DO NOT THINK THIS IS THE LEXINGTON AVENUE EXPRESS.

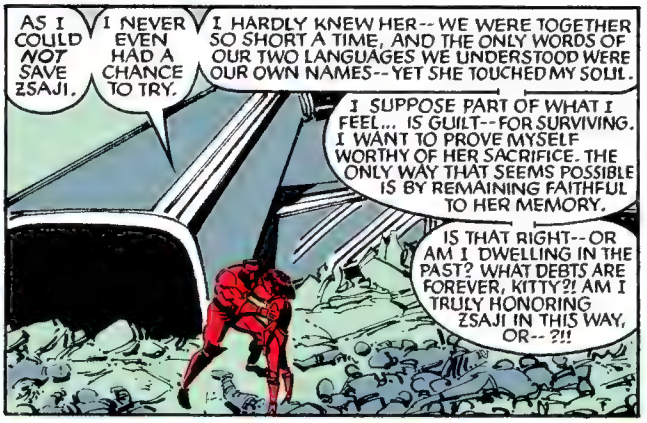

PHASE, SHADOWCAT-- IT IS SHOOTING AT US!
HANG LOOSE, COLOSSUS-- REENFORCEMENTS JUST ARRIVED!
LOOKS LIKE IN THE NICK OF TIME-- BEHIND YOU!
WOLVERINE?!?
I KNOW HE IS A ROBOT-- BUT HE SOUNDS, BEHAVES, SO REAL! ARCADE'S MIMICRY IS PERFECT!
HIS WARNING-- INFANTRY 'DROIDS, SWARMING ONTO THE ROOF, WHILE THE LOCO-MOTIVE TRANSFORMS INTO A GIANT COMBAT MACHINE!!
"AND NOW, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT-- LAUNCHING FROM NEIGHBORING BUILDINGS!
"SHADOWCAT, WE ARE SURROUNDED!"
"NO PROBLEM, COLOSSUS!"

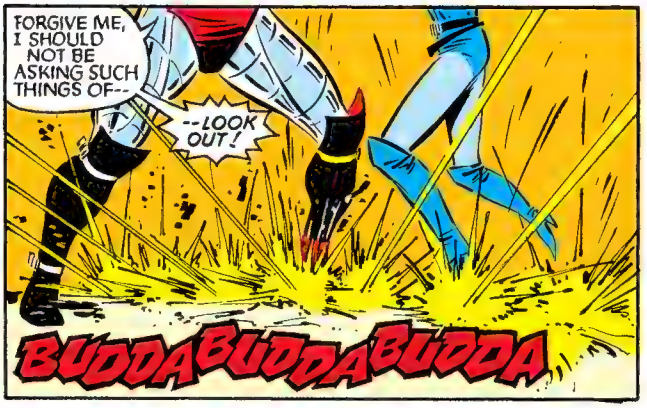

"STORM, ROGUE--" SHADOWCAT YELLS AT THE TOP OF HER LUNGS, AUTOMATICALLY TAKING COMMAND OF THE SITUATION, "--GIVE US HIGH COVER!
"LOOK, COLOSSUS! GOSH, IT'S SO GREAT TO SEE ORORO FLY AGAIN. IF ONLY HER POWERS COULD SOMEHOW BE RESTORED--I'D GIVE ANYTHING FOR THAT TO BE REALLY HER, INSTEAD OF A LOUSY X-BOT!
"WOLVIE, THE GOONS ARE YOURS!
EVERYBODY ELSE, GANG UP ON THIS TWO-FOOTED TANK!
BAMF
WHERE ARE THE DARN EWOKS WHEN THEY'RE NEEDED MOST?!
CYCLOPS, LOOK OUT--
KITTY!?!
THE WAY SHE SPOKE AND ACTED, I WAS POSITIVE...!
BY THE WHITE WOLF, IT... IT WAS ONLY A ROBOT!
SQUEEEEEEE--!
THANK GOODNESS I WAS WRONG.

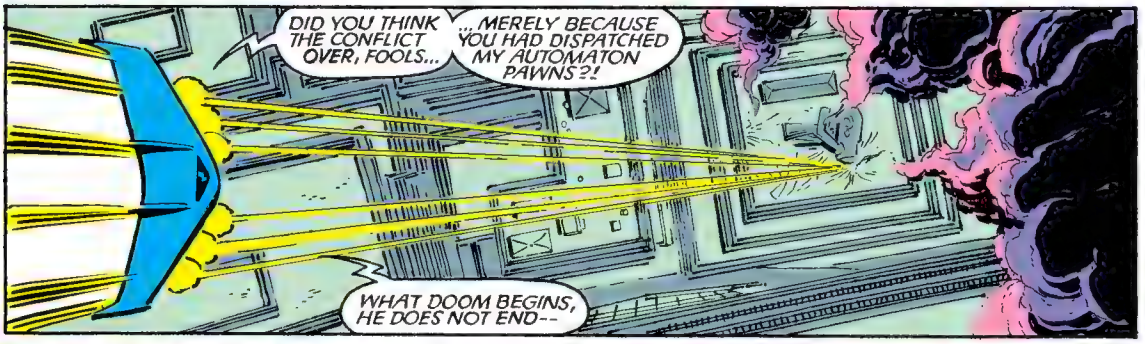

EVEN SPLIT, ROGUE?
SOUNDS GOOD T'ME, SUGAR.
AH'LL TAKE THE LEFT!
BOLTS OF LIGHTNING SHOULD CLEAR MY SECTOR OF THE SKY.
ME, AH PREFER WORKING MORE UP CLOSE AN' PERSONAL--AH'LL SIMPLY BUST ON THROUGH MINE.
SURE DON'T MAKE THESE CRITTERS LIKE THEY USQUEEAWRK!
THIS THE BEST DOOM CAN DO?!
HE MUST BE SLIPPIN' IN HIS OLD AGE?
DON'T GET COCKY! THE LONGER THIS GOES ON, THE LOUSIER THE ODDS FOR US!
SO FLAMIN' MANY OF THESE CADRES. WE CAN'T MATCH THE NUMBERS, THEY KEEP WEARIN' US DOWOWOWOWN!

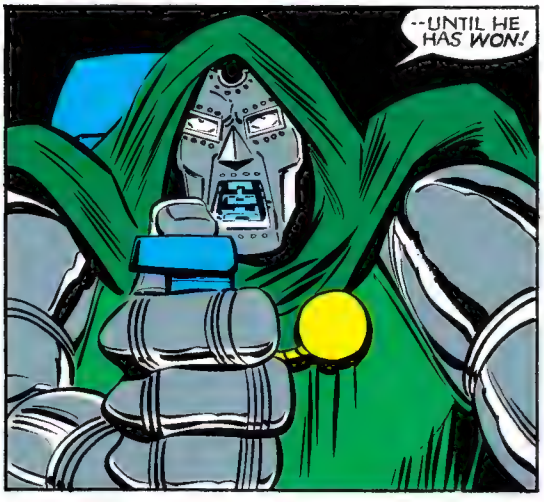

CYCLOPS, WE CANNOT SIMPLY STAND OUR GROUND! WE'LL BE OVERWHELMED!
DOOM'S THE KEY, NIGHT-CRAWLER--PUT HIM OUT OF COMMISSION--
--AND WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIS FLUNKY ROBOTS!
UNFORTUNATELY...
YIEARGH!
CRETINOUS CHILDREN--TO DARE MATCH YOURSELVES AGAINST DOOM?!!
I... I KNOW THOSE WERE ARCADE'S FAKES--
--BUT EVEN SO, TO SEE FRIENDS...
...INCINERATED...
WE ARE NOT ARCADE'S CREATIONS, 'CAT--
--BUT WE MAY YET SHARE THEIR FATE!
PHASE, KITTY--SO THE ROBOT CANNOT TOUCH YOU!
THIS MECHANISM IS DOOM'S HEAVIEST WEAPON--THE CORE ELEMENT OF HIS ASSAULT!
IF I CAN DEPRIVE HIM OF IT--?!!
RRAK!

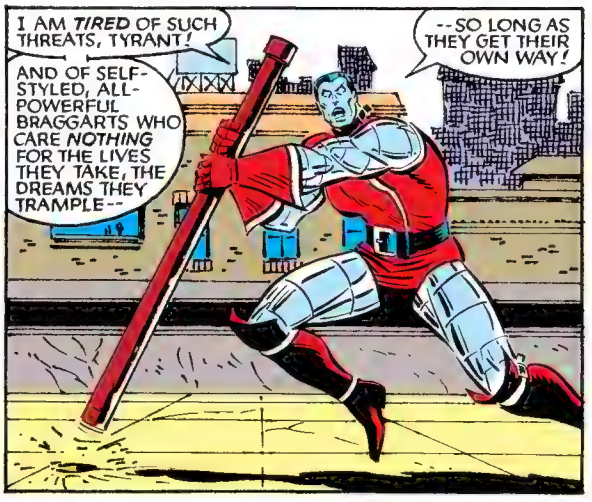
KBLAM
I SAVED KITTY!!
DONE IT!

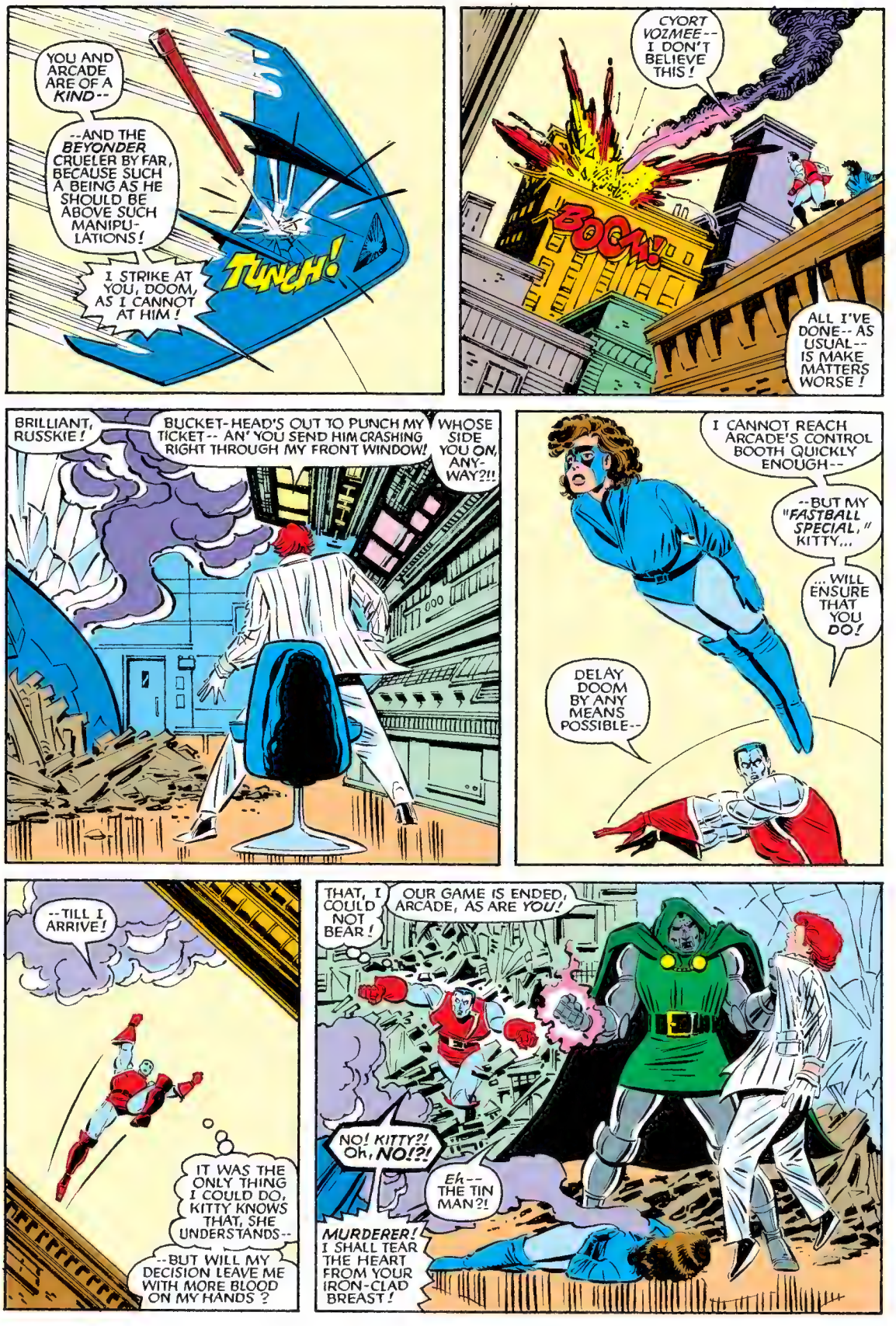

AS I COULD NOT SAVE ZSAJI.
I NEVER EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO TRY.
I HARDLY KNEW HER-- WE WERE TOGETHER SO SHORT A TIME, AND THE ONLY WORDS OF OUR TWO LANGUAGES WE UNDERSTOOD WERE OUR OWN NAMES-- YET SHE TOUCHED MY SOUL.
I SUPPOSE PART OF WHAT I FEEL... IS GUILT--FOR SURVIVING. I WANT TO PROVE MYSELF WORTHY OF HER SACRIFICE. THE ONLY WAY THAT SEEMS POSSIBLE IS BY REMAINING FAITHFUL TO HER MEMORY.
IS THAT RIGHT-- OR AM I DWELLING IN THE PAST? WHAT DEBTS ARE FOREVER, KITTY?! AM I TRULY HONORING ZSAJI IN THIS WAY, OR-- ?!!

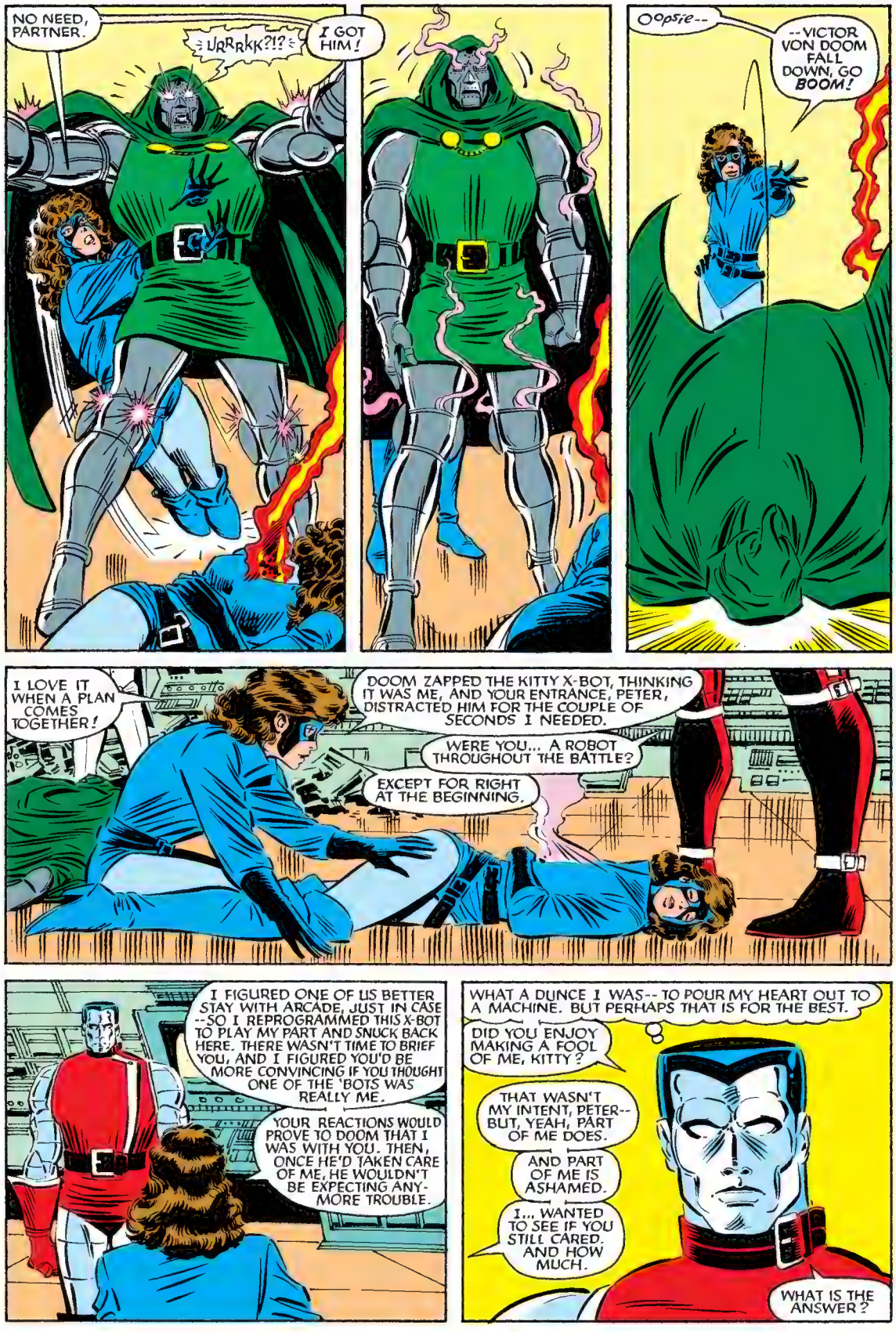

FORGIVE ME, I SHOULD NOT BE ASKING SUCH THINGS OF--
--LOOK OUT!
BUDDABUDDABUDDA

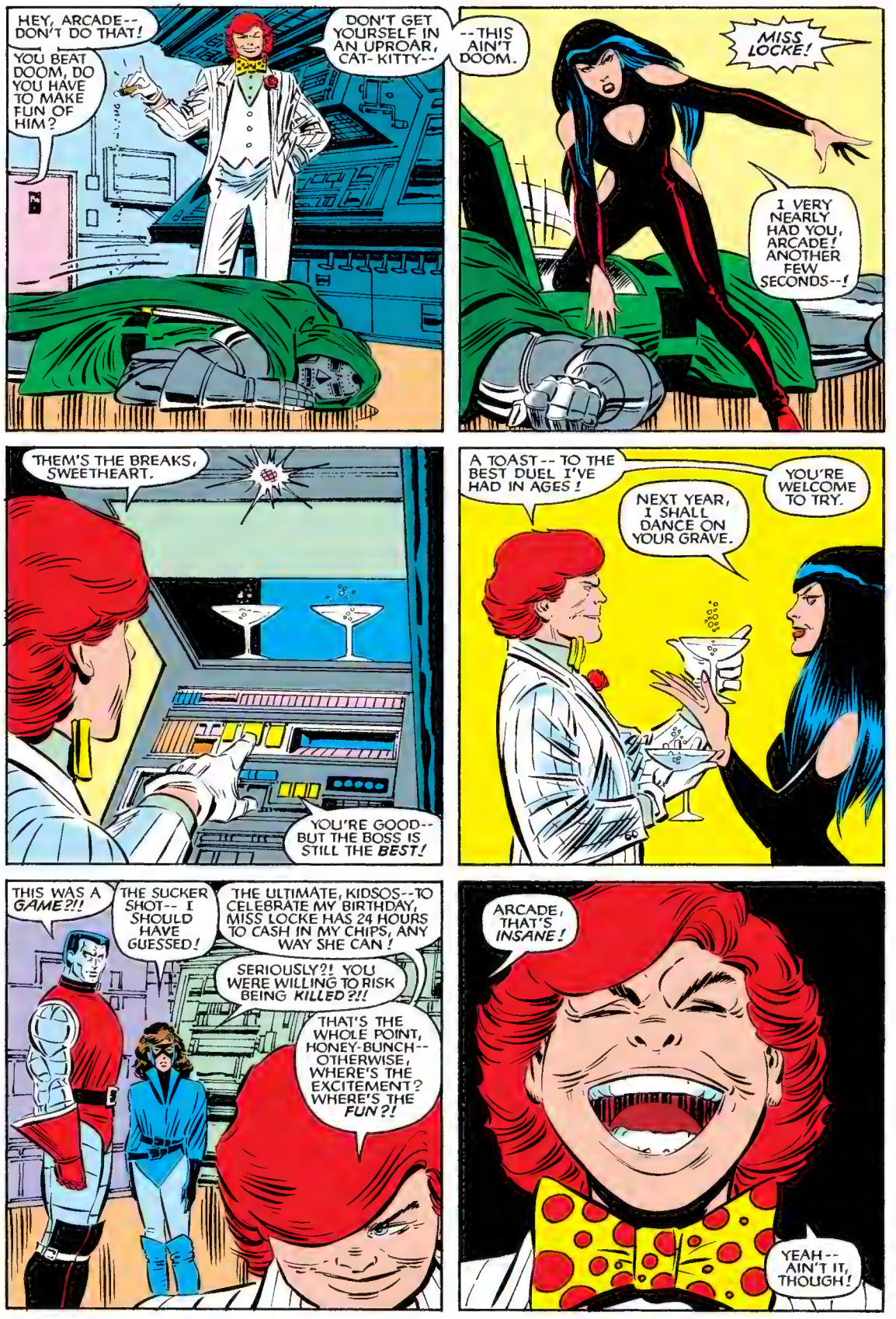

DID YOU THINK THE CONFLICT OVER, FOOLS...
...MERELY BECAUSE YOU HAD DISPATCHED MY AUTOMATON PAWNS?!
WHAT DOOM BEGINS, HE DOES NOT END--

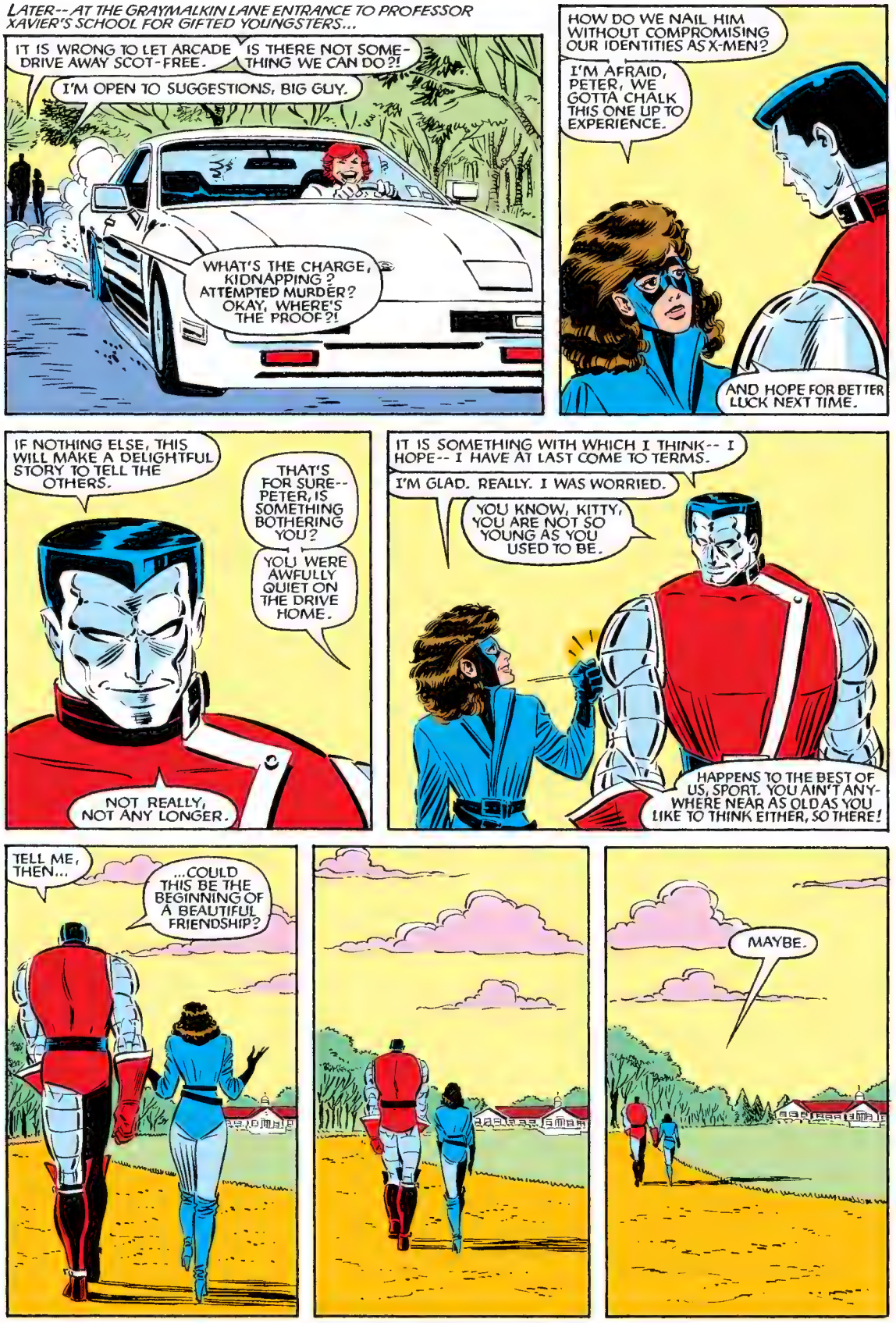

--UNTIL HE HAS WON!


I AM TIRED OF SUCH THREATS, TYRANT!
AND OF SELF-STYLED, ALL-POWERFUL BRAGGARTS WHO CARE NOTHING FOR THE LIVES THEY TAKE, THE DREAMS THEY TRAMPLE--
--SO LONG AS THEY GET THEIR OWN WAY!

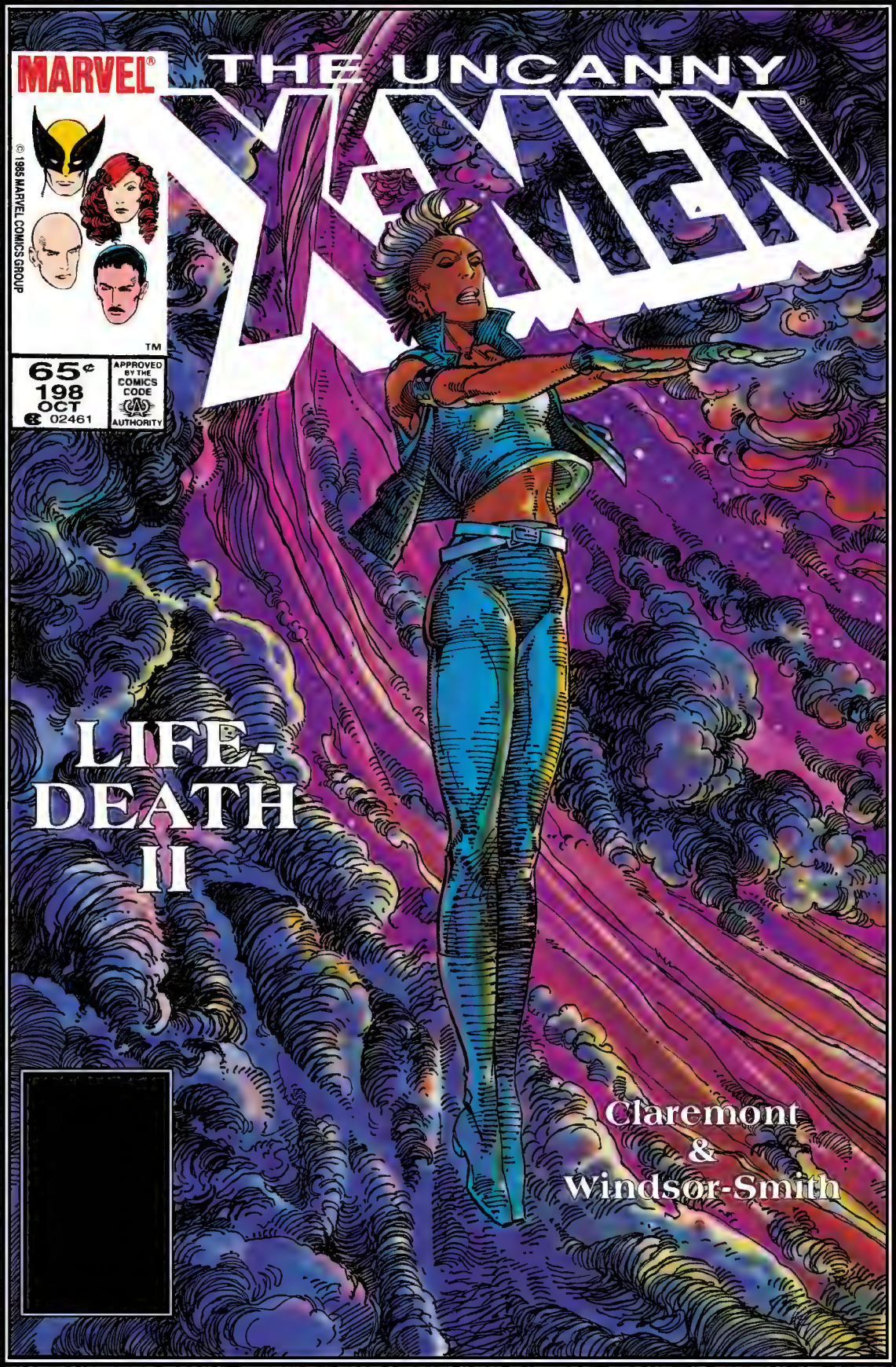

YOU AND ARCADE ARE OF A KIND--
--AND THE BEYONDER CRUELER BY FAR, BECAUSE SUCH A BEING AS HE SHOULD BE ABOVE SUCH MANIPU-LATIONS!
I STRIKE AT YOU, DOOM, AS I CANNOT AT HIM!
TUNCH!
CYORT VOZMEE-- I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
BOOM!
ALL I'VE DONE-- AS USUAL-- IS MAKE MATTERS WORSE!
BRILLIANT, RUSSKIE!
BUCKET-HEAD'S OUT TO PUNCH MY TICKET-- AN' YOU SEND HIM CRASHING RIGHT THROUGH MY FRONT WINDOW!
WHOSE SIDE YOU ON, ANY-WAY?!!
I CANNOT REACH ARCADE'S CONTROL BOOTH QUICKLY ENOUGH--
--BUT MY "FASTBALL SPECIAL," KITTY...
... WILL ENSURE THAT YOU DO!
DELAY DOOM BY ANY MEANS POSSIBLE--
--TILL I ARRIVE!
IT WAS THE ONLY THING I COULD DO, KITTY KNOWS THAT, SHE UNDERSTANDS--
--BUT WILL MY DECISION LEAVE ME WITH MORE BLOOD ON MY HANDS?
THAT, I COULD NOT BEAR!
OUR GAME IS ENDED, ARCADE, AS ARE YOU!
NO! KITTY?! Oh, NO!?!
Eh-- THE TIN MAN?!
MURDERER! I SHALL TEAR THE HEART FROM YOUR IRON-CLAD BREAST!


NO NEED, PARTNER.
UURRKK?!?
I GOT HIM!
Oopsie--
--VICTOR VON DOOM FALL DOWN, GO BOOM!
I LOVE IT WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER!
DOOM ZAPPED THE KITTY X-BOT, THINKING IT WAS ME, AND YOUR ENTRANCE, PETER, DISTRACTED HIM FOR THE COUPLE OF SECONDS I NEEDED.
WERE YOU... A ROBOT THROUGHOUT THE BATTLE?
EXCEPT FOR RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING.
I FIGURED ONE OF US BETTER STAY WITH ARCADE, JUST IN CASE --SO I REPROGRAMMED THIS X-BOT TO PLAY MY PART AND SNUCK BACK HERE. THERE WASN'T TIME TO BRIEF YOU, AND I FIGURED YOU'D BE MORE CONVINCING IF YOU THOUGHT ONE OF THE 'BOTS WAS REALLY ME.
YOUR REACTIONS WOULD PROVE TO DOOM THAT I WAS WITH YOU. THEN, ONCE HE'D TAKEN CARE OF ME, HE WOULDN'T BE EXPECTING ANY-MORE TROUBLE.
WHAT A DUNCE I WAS-- TO POUR MY HEART OUT TO A MACHINE. BUT PERHAPS THAT IS FOR THE BEST.
DID YOU ENJOY MAKING A FOOL OF ME, KITTY?
THAT WASN'T MY INTENT, PETER-- BUT, YEAH, PART OF ME DOES.
AND PART OF ME IS ASHAMED.
I... WANTED TO SEE IF YOU STILL CARED. AND HOW MUCH.
WHAT IS THE ANSWER?


HEY, ARCADE-- DON'T DO THAT!
YOU BEAT DOOM, DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE FUN OF HIM?
DON'T GET YOURSELF IN AN UPROAR, CAT- KITTY--
--THIS AIN'T DOOM.
MISS LOCKE!
I VERY NEARLY HAD YOU, ARCADE! ANOTHER FEW SECONDS--!
THEM'S THE BREAKS, SWEETHEART.
YOU'RE GOOD-- BUT THE BOSS IS STILL THE BEST!
A TOAST-- TO THE BEST DUEL I'VE HAD IN AGES!
NEXT YEAR, I SHALL DANCE ON YOUR GRAVE.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY.
THIS WAS A GAME?!!
THE SUCKER SHOT-- I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!
THE ULTIMATE, KIDSOS--TO CELEBRATE MY BIRTHDAY, MISS LOCKE HAS 24 HOURS TO CASH IN MY CHIPS, ANY WAY SHE CAN!
SERIOUSLY?! YOU WERE WILLING TO RISK BEING KILLED?!!
THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT, HONEY-BUNCH-- OTHERWISE, WHERE'S THE EXCITEMENT? WHERE'S THE FUN?!
ARCADE, THAT'S INSANE!
YEAH-- AIN'T IT, THOUGH!


LATER-- AT THE GRAYMALKIN LANE ENTRANCE TO PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...
IT IS WRONG TO LET ARCADE DRIVE AWAY SCOT-FREE.
IS THERE NOT SOMETHING WE CAN DO?!
I'M OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS, BIG GUY.
WHAT'S THE CHARGE, KIDNAPPING? ATTEMPTED MURDER? OKAY, WHERE'S THE PROOF?!
HOW DO WE NAIL HIM WITHOUT COMPROMISING OUR IDENTITIES AS X-MEN?
I'M AFRAID, PETER, WE GOTTA CHALK THIS ONE UP TO EXPERIENCE.
AND HOPE FOR BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME.
IF NOTHING ELSE, THIS WILL MAKE A DELIGHTFUL STORY TO TELL THE OTHERS.
THAT'S FOR SURE-- PETER, IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
YOU WERE AWFULLY QUIET ON THE DRIVE HOME.
NOT REALLY, NOT ANY LONGER.
IT IS SOMETHING WITH WHICH I THINK-- I HOPE-- I HAVE AT LAST COME TO TERMS.
I'M GLAD. REALLY. I WAS WORRIED.
YOU KNOW, KITTY, YOU ARE NOT SO YOUNG AS YOU USED TO BE.
HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US, SPORT. YOU AIN'T ANYWHERE NEAR AS OLD AS YOU LIKE TO THINK EITHER, SO THERE!
TELL ME, THEN...
...COULD THIS BE THE BEGINNING OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP?
MAYBE.

ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE--
--THE SERENGETI PLAIN, A DAY AFTER ORORO, THE X-MEN'S FORMER LEADER, WAS SHOT...
... AND LEFT FOR DEAD.
Jhnnhhnnn...
VULTURES--!
BEGONE, EATERS OF CARRION!
SQUAWK!
FIND SOME OTHER CARCASS TO STRIP, I AM FAR FROM READY!
ALL MY DAYS I HAVE FOUGHT! I AM NOT ABOUT TO GIVE UP NOW!!
DO YOU WISH MY LIFE, O MASTER OF SHADOWS-- THEN COME FOR ME, CLAIM ME...
...IF YOU DARE!
NEXT: LIFEDEATH -- FROM THE HEART OF DARKNESS.


MARVEL
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
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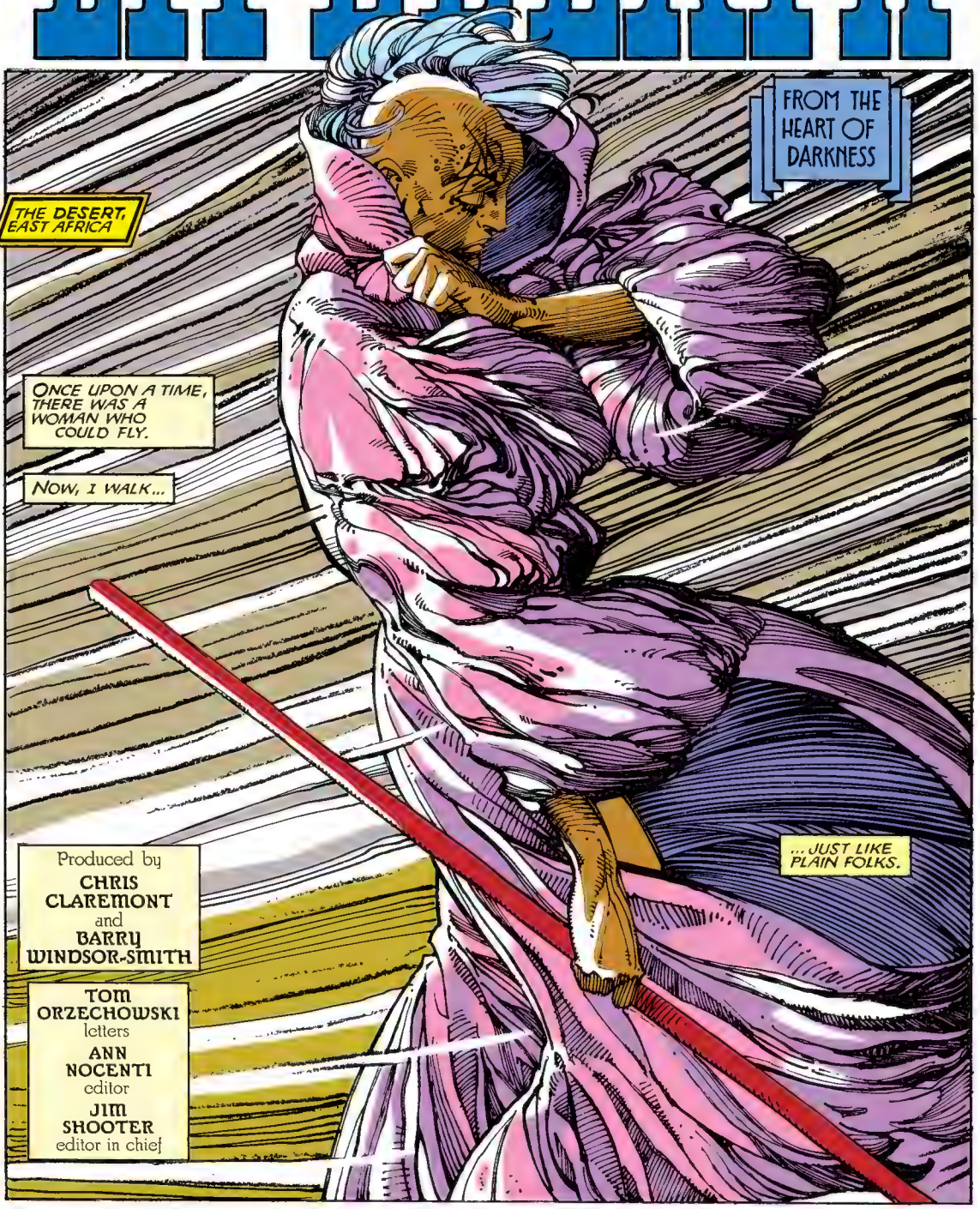
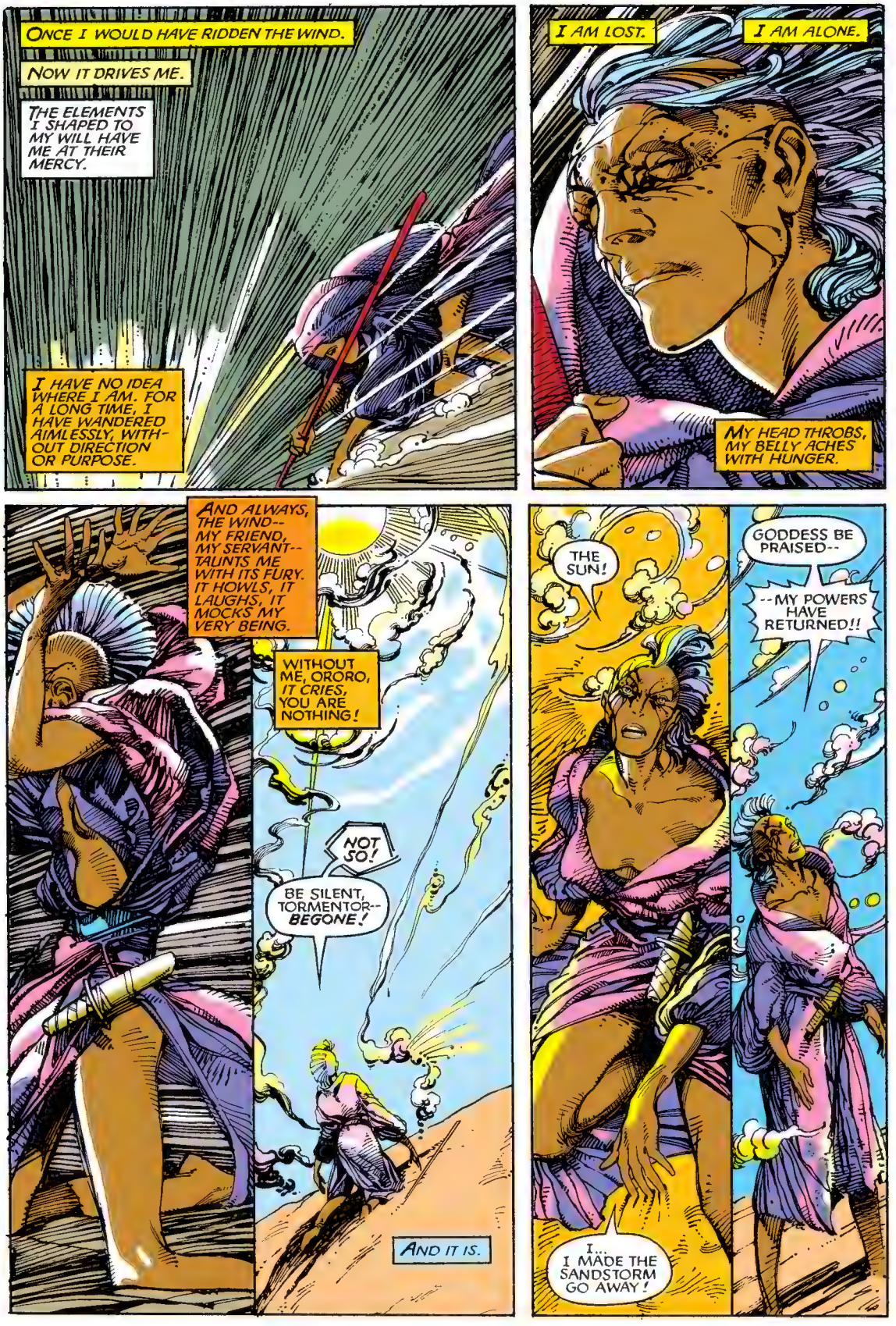
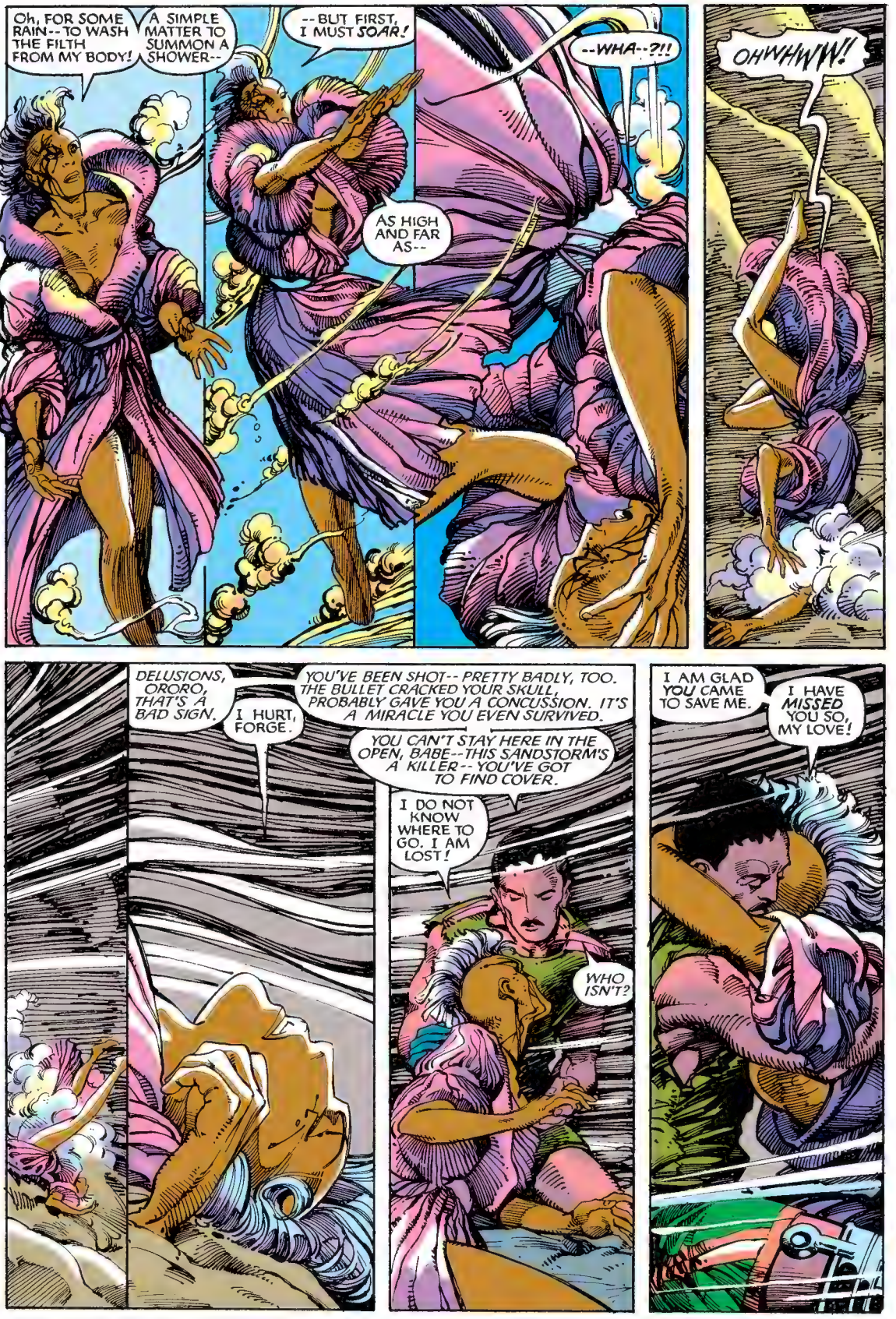
LIFE-DEATH II
Claremont & Windsor-Smith

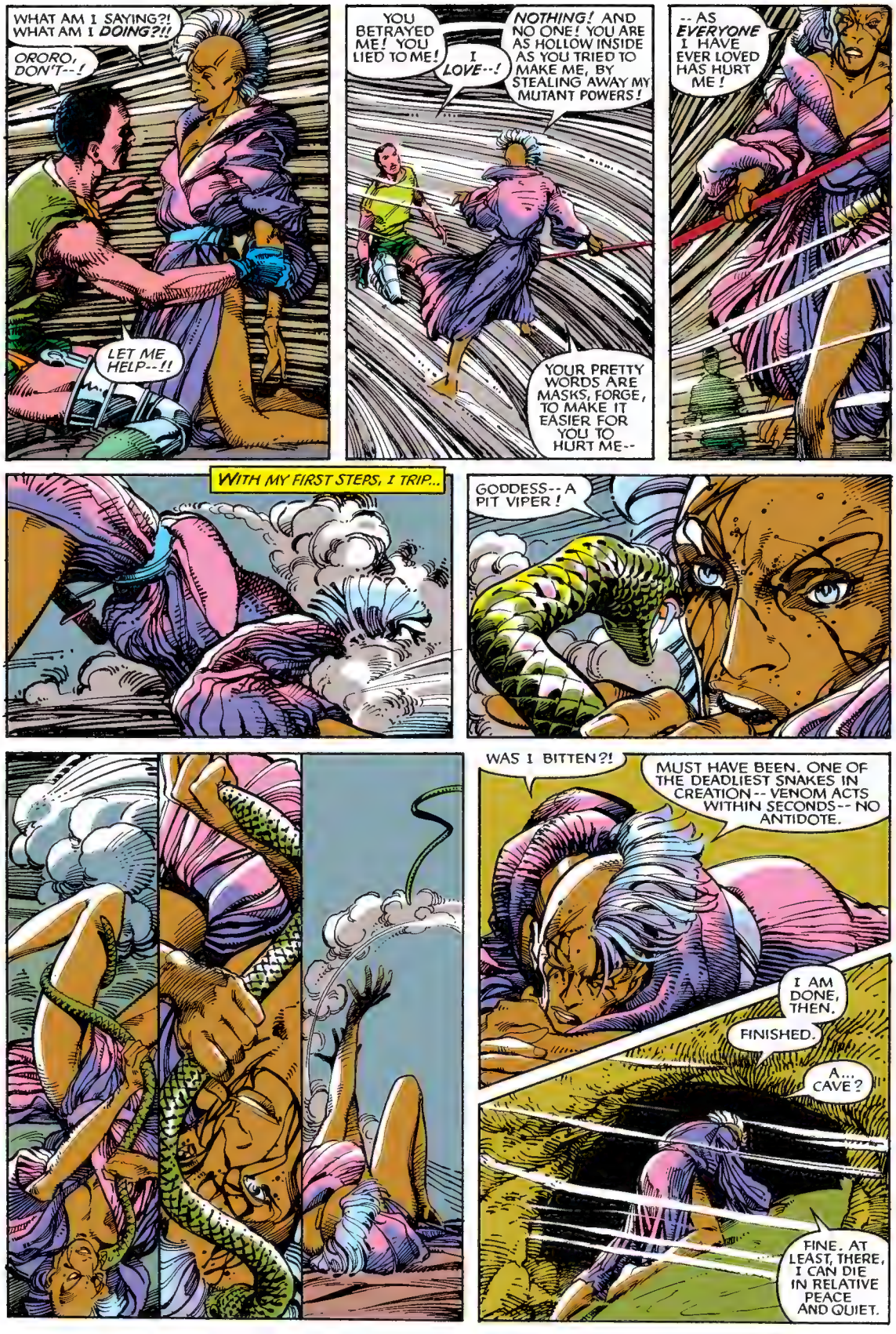
Stan Lee presents:

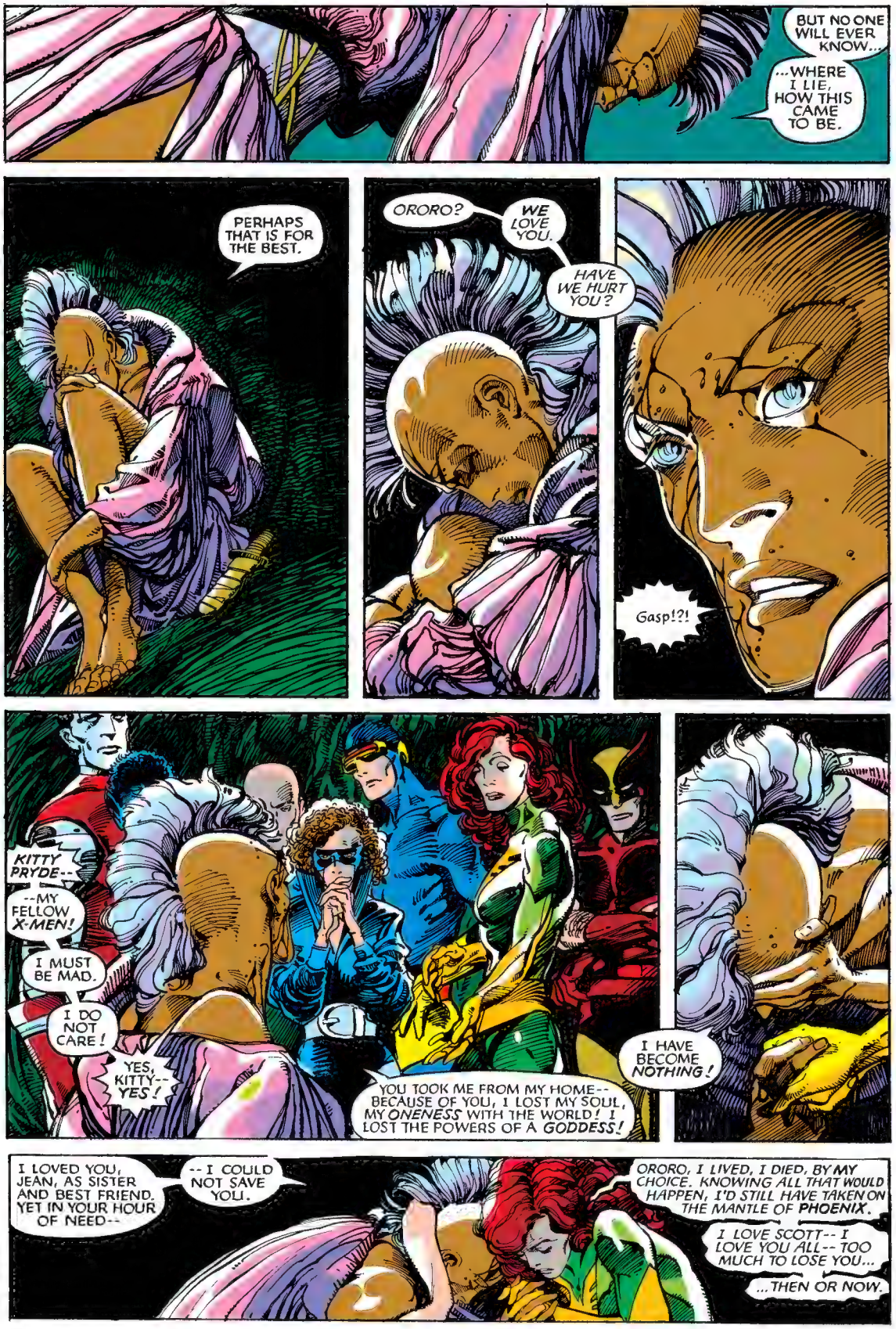
LIFEDEATH

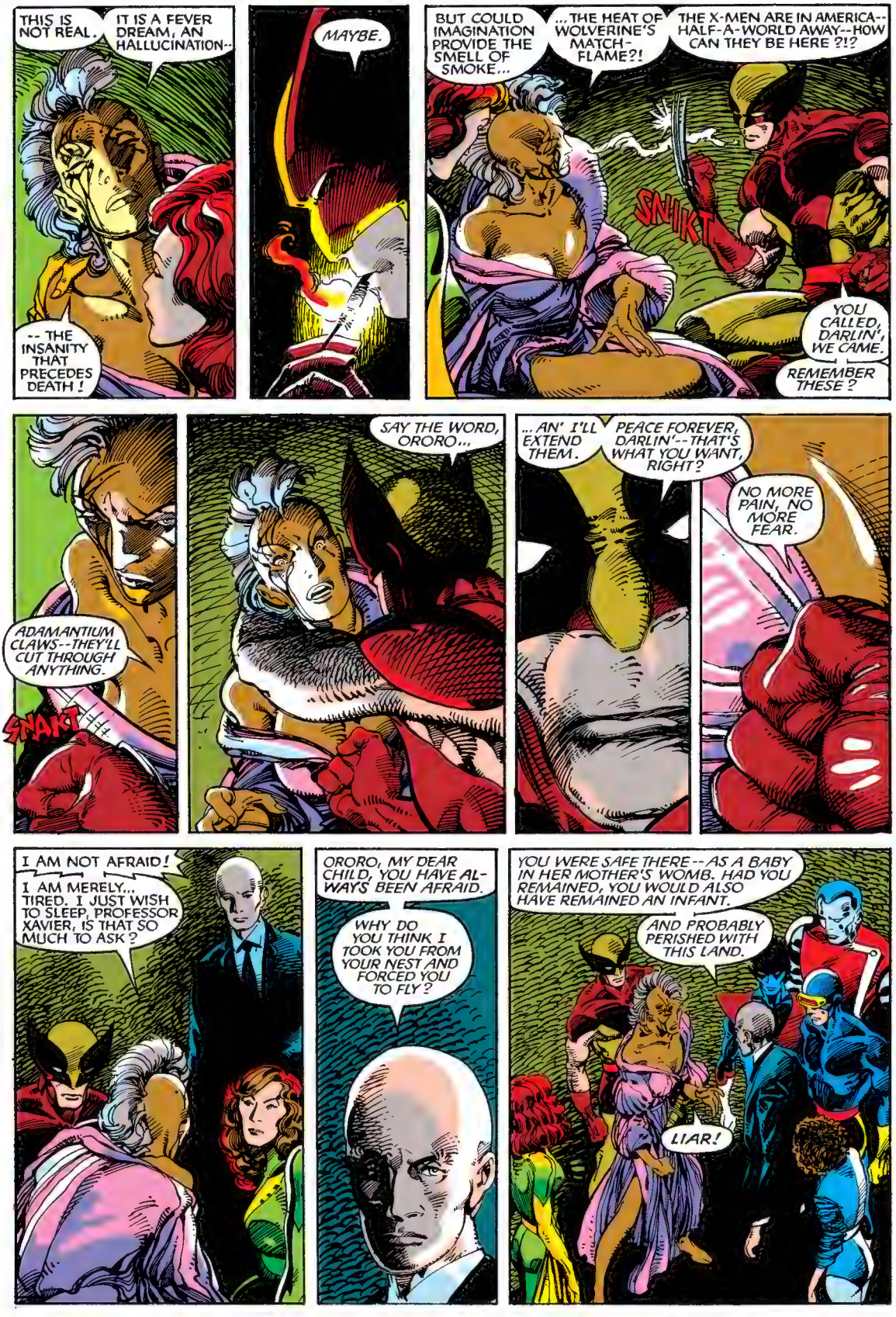


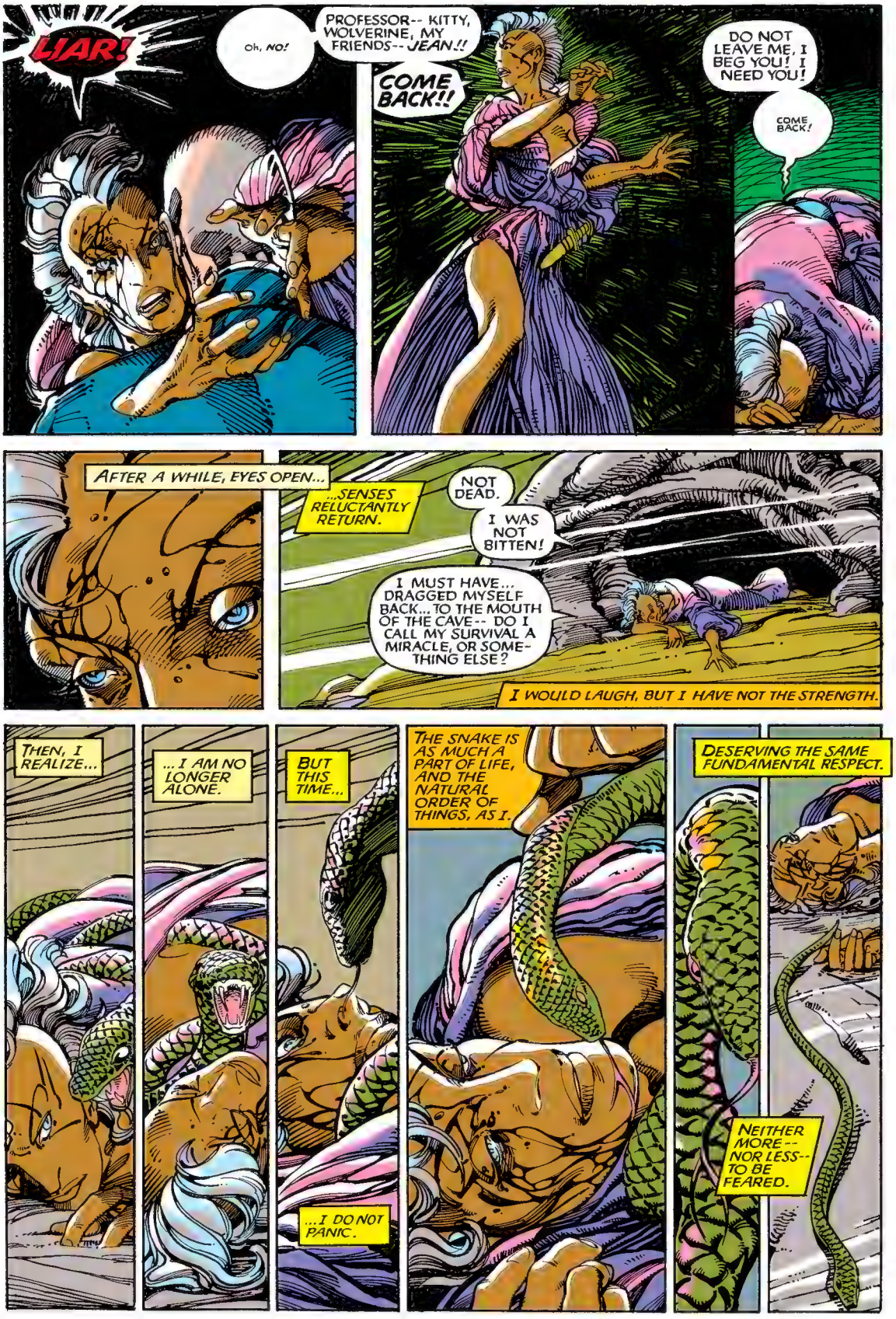

ONCE I WOULD HAVE RIDDEN THE WIND.
NOW IT DRIVES ME.
THE ELEMENTS I SHAPED TO MY WILL HAVE ME AT THEIR MERCY.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I AM. FOR A LONG TIME, I HAVE WANDERED AIMLESSLY, WITHOUT DIRECTION OR PURPOSE.
I AM LOST.
I AM ALONE.
MY HEAD THROBS, MY BELLY ACHES WITH HUNGER.
AND ALWAYS, THE WIND-- MY FRIEND, MY SERVANT-- TAUNTS ME WITH ITS FURY. IT HOWLS, IT LAUGHS, IT MOCKS MY VERY BEING.
WITHOUT ME, ORORO, IT CRIES, YOU ARE NOTHING!
NOT SO!
BE SILENT, TORMENTOR-- BEGONE!
AND IT IS.
THE SUN!
GODDESS BE PRAISED--
--MY POWERS HAVE RETURNED!!
I... I MADE THE SANDSTORM GO AWAY!

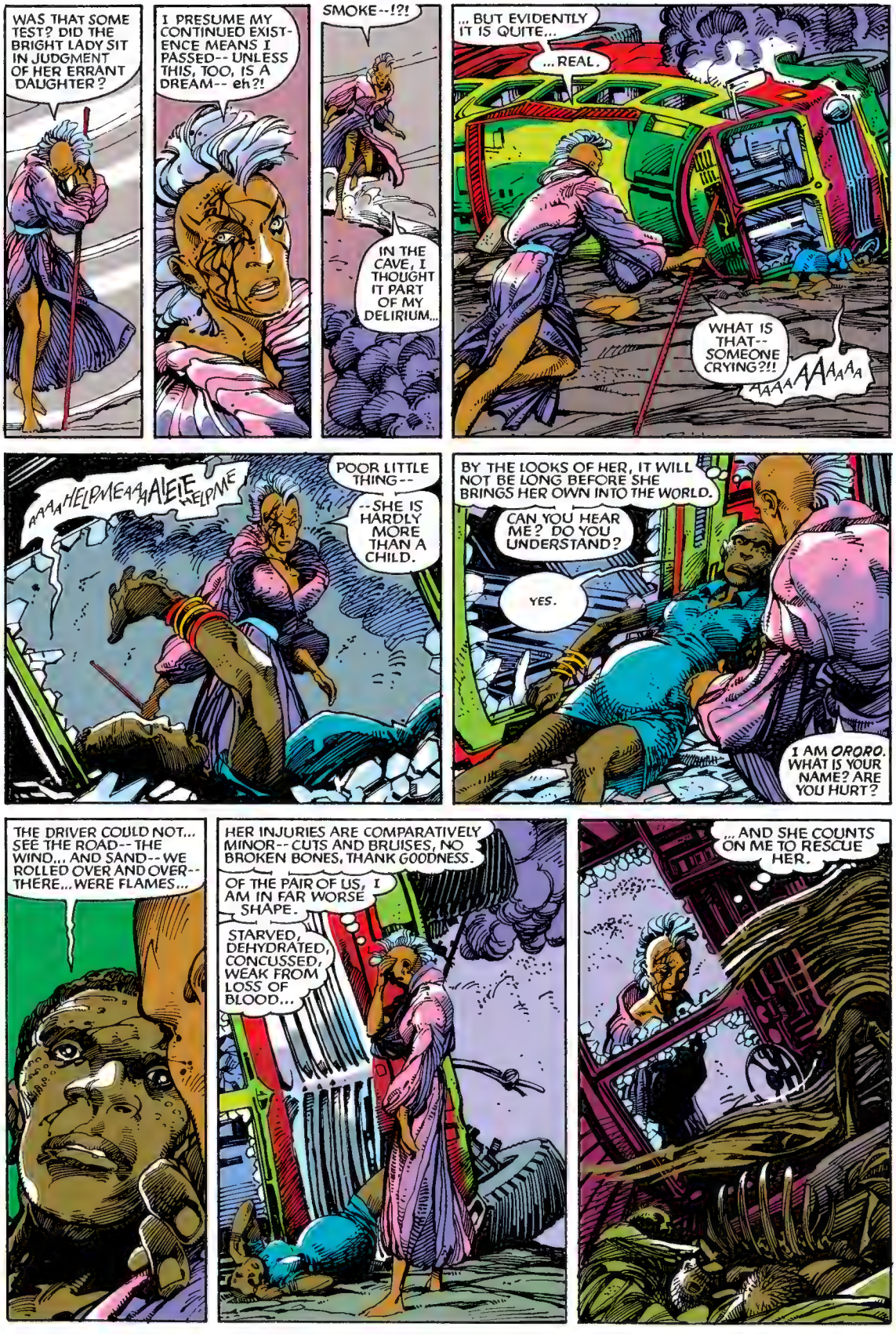

Oh, FOR SOME RAIN-- TO WASH THE FILTH FROM MY BODY!
A SIMPLE MATTER TO SUMMON A SHOWER--
--BUT FIRST, I MUST SOAR!
AS HIGH AND FAR AS--
--WHA--?!!
OHWHWW!
DELUSIONS, ORORO, THAT'S A BAD SIGN.
I HURT, FORGE.
YOU'VE BEEN SHOT-- PRETTY BADLY, TOO. THE BULLET CRACKED YOUR SKULL, PROBABLY GAVE YOU A CONCUSSION. IT'S A MIRACLE YOU EVEN SURVIVED.
YOU CAN'T STAY HERE IN THE OPEN, BABE--THIS SANDSTORM'S A KILLER-- YOU'VE GOT TO FIND COVER.
I DO NOT KNOW WHERE TO GO. I AM LOST!
WHO ISN'T?
I AM GLAD YOU CAME TO SAVE ME.
I HAVE MISSED YOU SO, MY LOVE!

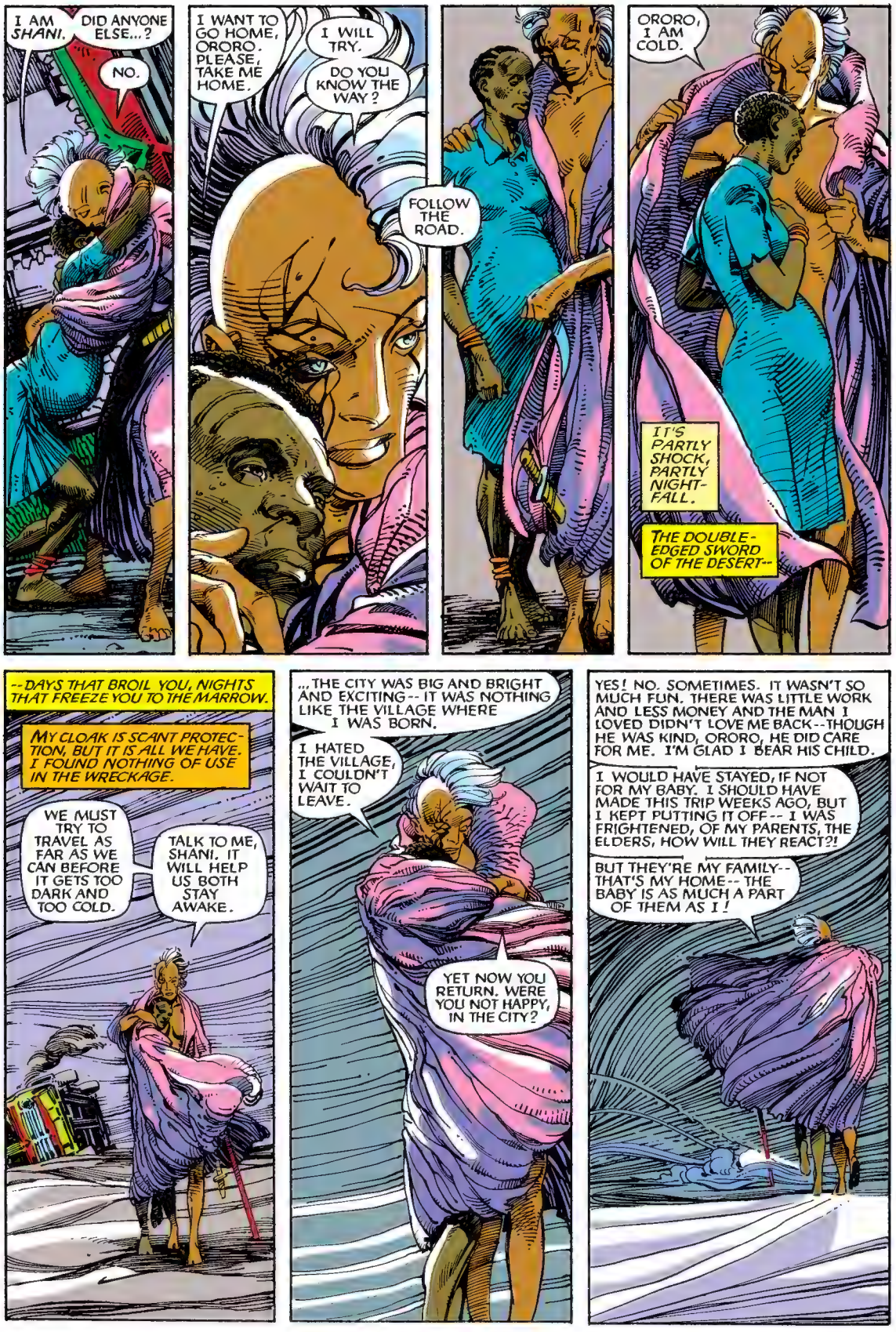

WHAT AM I SAYING?! WHAT AM I DOING?!!
ORORO, DON'T--!
LET ME HELP--!!
YOU BETRAYED ME! YOU LIED TO ME!
I LOVE--!
NOTHING! AND NO ONE! YOU ARE AS HOLLOW INSIDE AS YOU TRIED TO MAKE ME, BY STEALING AWAY MY MUTANT POWERS!
YOUR PRETTY WORDS ARE MASKS, FORGE, TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO HURT ME--
-- AS EVERYONE I HAVE EVER LOVED HAS HURT ME!
WITH MY FIRST STEPS, I TRIP...
GODDESS-- A PIT VIPER!
WAS I BITTEN?!
MUST HAVE BEEN. ONE OF THE DEADLIEST SNAKES IN CREATION -- VENOM ACTS WITHIN SECONDS -- NO ANTIDOTE.
I AM DONE, THEN.
FINISHED.
A... CAVE?
FINE. AT LEAST, THERE, I CAN DIE IN RELATIVE PEACE AND QUIET.


BUT NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW...
...WHERE I LIE, HOW THIS CAME TO BE.
PERHAPS THAT IS FOR THE BEST.
ORORO?
WE LOVE YOU.
HAVE WE HURT YOU?
Gasp!?!
KITTY PRYDE--
--MY FELLOW X-MEN!
I MUST BE MAD.
I DO NOT CARE!
YES, KITTY-- YES!
YOU TOOK ME FROM MY HOME-- BECAUSE OF YOU, I LOST MY SOUL, MY ONENESS WITH THE WORLD! I LOST THE POWERS OF A GODDESS!
I HAVE BECOME NOTHING!
I LOVED YOU, JEAN, AS SISTER AND BEST FRIEND. YET IN YOUR HOUR OF NEED--
-- I COULD NOT SAVE YOU.
ORORO, I LIVED, I DIED, BY MY CHOICE. KNOWING ALL THAT WOULD HAPPEN, I'D STILL HAVE TAKEN ON THE MANTLE OF PHOENIX.
I LOVE SCOTT-- I LOVE YOU ALL-- TOO MUCH TO LOSE YOU...
...THEN OR NOW.

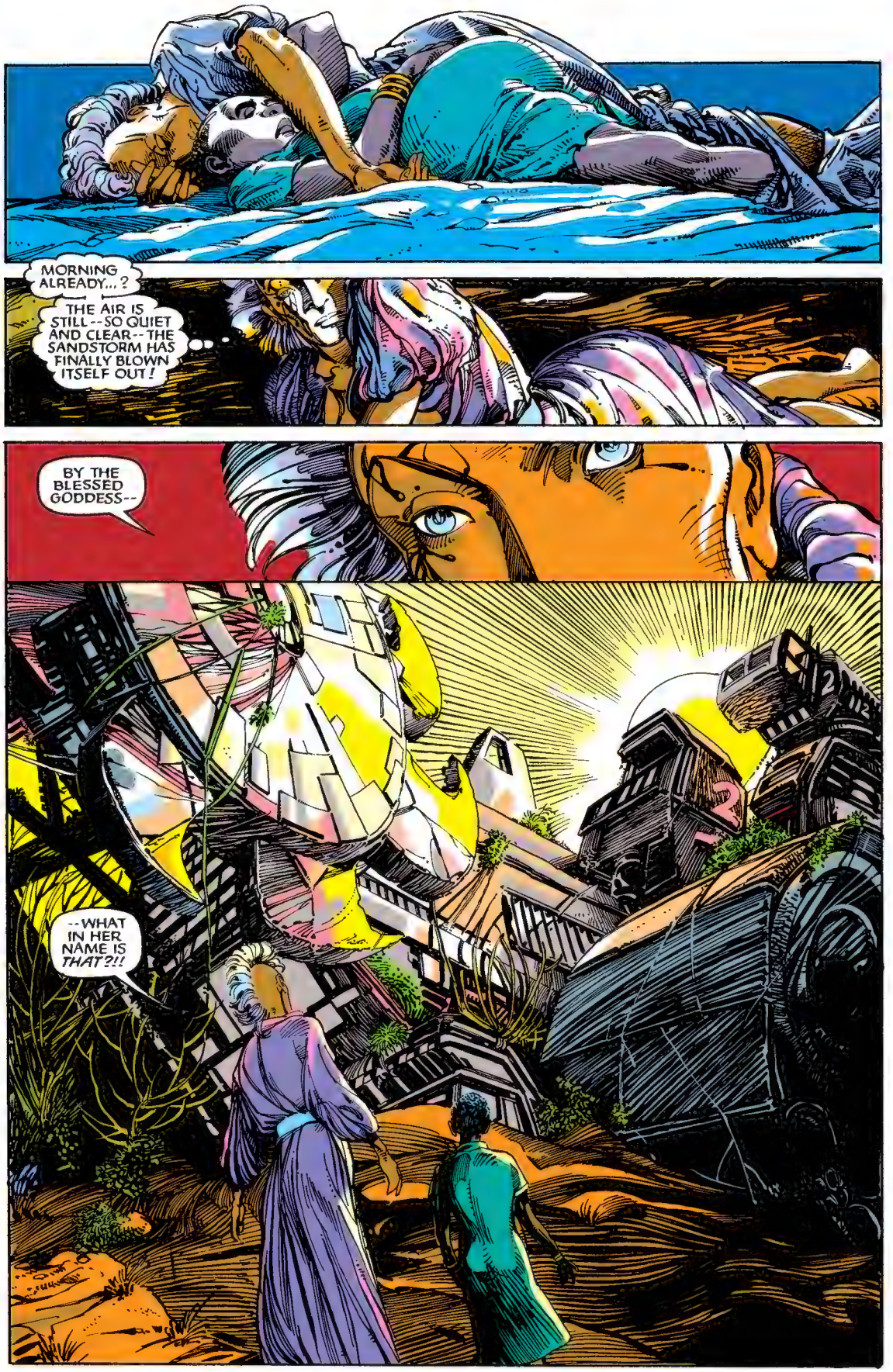

THIS IS NOT REAL.
IT IS A FEVER DREAM, AN HALLUCINATION--
-- THE INSANITY THAT PRECEDES DEATH!
MAYBE.
BUT COULD IMAGINATION PROVIDE THE SMELL OF SMOKE...
...THE HEAT OF WOLVERINE'S MATCH-FLAME?!
THE X-MEN ARE IN AMERICA--HALF-A-WORLD AWAY--HOW CAN THEY BE HERE ?!?
SNIKT
YOU CALLED, DARLIN', WE CAME.
REMEMBER THESE ?
ADAMANTIUM CLAWS--THEY'LL CUT THROUGH ANYTHING.
SNIKT
SAY THE WORD, ORORO...
...AN' I'LL EXTEND THEM.
PEACE FOREVER, DARLIN'--THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, RIGHT?
NO MORE PAIN, NO MORE FEAR.
I AM NOT AFRAID!
I AM MERELY... TIRED. I JUST WISH TO SLEEP, PROFESSOR XAVIER, IS THAT SO MUCH TO ASK?
ORORO, MY DEAR CHILD, YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID.
WHY DO YOU THINK I TOOK YOU FROM YOUR NEST AND FORCED YOU TO FLY?
YOU WERE SAFE THERE--AS A BABY IN HER MOTHER'S WOMB. HAD YOU REMAINED, YOU WOULD ALSO HAVE REMAINED AN INFANT.
AND PROBABLY PERISHED WITH THIS LAND.
LIAR!

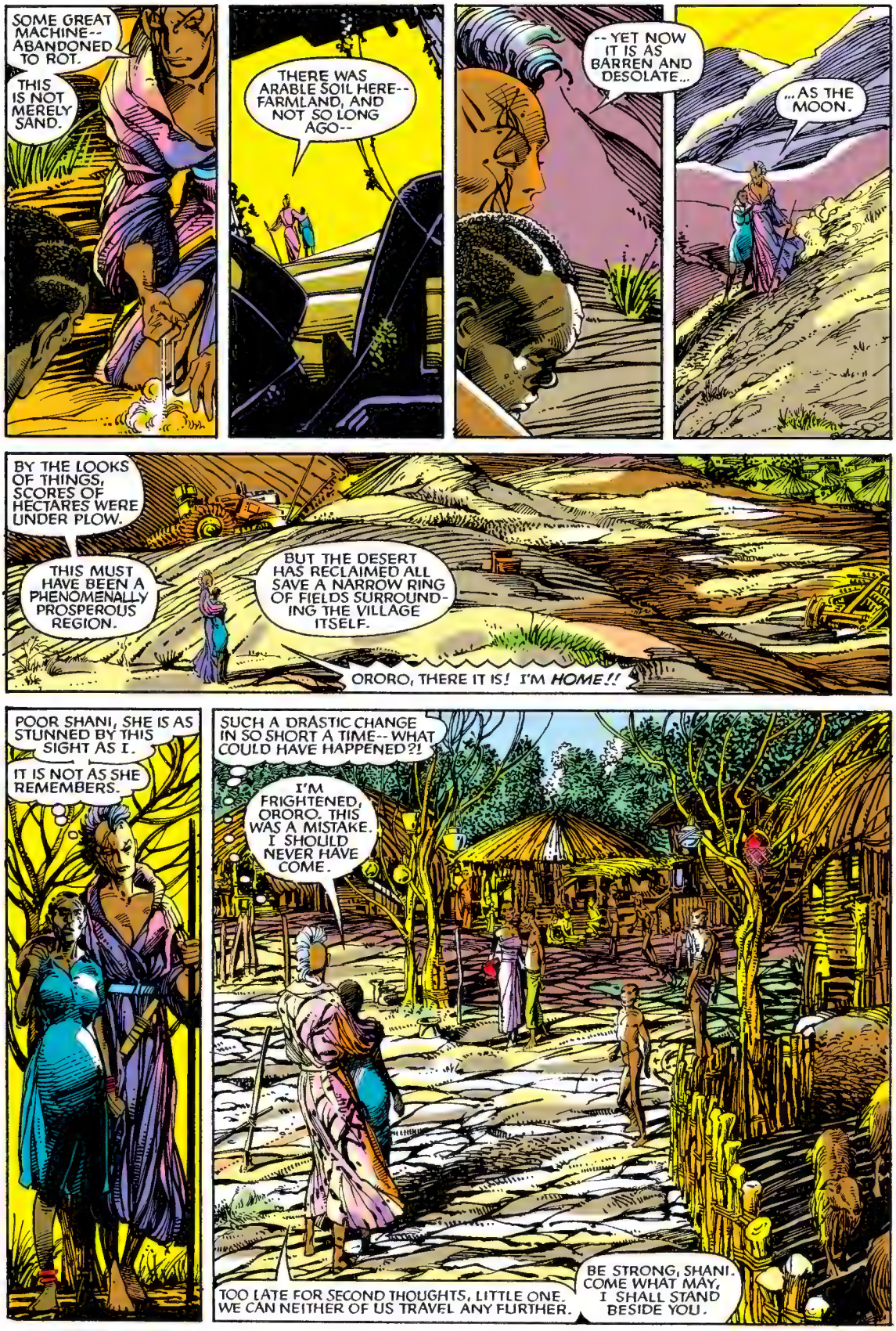

LIAR!
Oh, NO!
PROFESSOR-- KITTY, WOLVERINE, MY FRIENDS-- JEAN!!
COME BACK!!
DO NOT LEAVE ME, I BEG YOU! I NEED YOU!
COME BACK!
AFTER A WHILE, EYES OPEN...
...SENSES RELUCTANTLY RETURN.
NOT DEAD.
I WAS NOT BITTEN!
I MUST HAVE... DRAGGED MYSELF BACK... TO THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE-- DO I CALL MY SURVIVAL A MIRACLE, OR SOMETHING ELSE?
I WOULD LAUGH, BUT I HAVE NOT THE STRENGTH.
THEN, I REALIZE...
...I AM NO LONGER ALONE.
BUT THIS TIME...
...I DO NOT PANIC.
THE SNAKE IS AS MUCH A PART OF LIFE, AND THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS, AS I.
DESERVING THE SAME FUNDAMENTAL RESPECT.
NEITHER MORE-- NOR LESS-- TO BE FEARED.


WAS THAT SOME TEST? DID THE BRIGHT LADY SIT IN JUDGMENT OF HER ERRANT DAUGHTER?
I PRESUME MY CONTINUED EXISTENCE MEANS I PASSED-- UNLESS THIS, TOO, IS A DREAM-- eh?!
SMOKE--!?!
IN THE CAVE, I THOUGHT IT PART OF MY DELIRIUM...
... BUT EVIDENTLY IT IS QUITE...
... REAL.
WHAT IS THAT-- SOMEONE CRYING?!!
AAAAAAAAAA
AAAAHELPMEAAAAIEIE HELPME
POOR LITTLE THING--
--SHE IS HARDLY MORE THAN A CHILD.
BY THE LOOKS OF HER, IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE SHE BRINGS HER OWN INTO THE WORLD.
CAN YOU HEAR ME? DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YES.
I AM ORORO. WHAT IS YOUR NAME? ARE YOU HURT?
THE DRIVER COULD NOT... SEE THE ROAD-- THE WIND... AND SAND-- WE ROLLED OVER AND OVER-- THERE... WERE FLAMES...
HER INJURIES ARE COMPARATIVELY MINOR-- CUTS AND BRUISES, NO BROKEN BONES, THANK GOODNESS.
OF THE PAIR OF US, I AM IN FAR WORSE SHAPE.
STARVED, DEHYDRATED, CONCUSSED, WEAK FROM LOSS OF BLOOD...
... AND SHE COUNTS ON ME TO RESCUE HER.


I AM SHANI.
DID ANYONE ELSE...?
NO.
I WANT TO GO HOME, ORORO. PLEASE, TAKE ME HOME.
I WILL TRY.
DO YOU KNOW THE WAY?
FOLLOW THE ROAD.
ORORO, I AM COLD.
IT'S PARTLY SHOCK, PARTLY NIGHT-FALL.
THE DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD OF THE DESERT--
--DAYS THAT BROIL YOU, NIGHTS THAT FREEZE YOU TO THE MARROW.
MY CLOAK IS SCANT PROTECTION, BUT IT IS ALL WE HAVE. I FOUND NOTHING OF USE IN THE WRECKAGE.
WE MUST TRY TO TRAVEL AS FAR AS WE CAN BEFORE IT GETS TOO DARK AND TOO COLD.
TALK TO ME, SHANI. IT WILL HELP US BOTH STAY AWAKE.
...THE CITY WAS BIG AND BRIGHT AND EXCITING-- IT WAS NOTHING LIKE THE VILLAGE WHERE I WAS BORN.
I HATED THE VILLAGE, I COULDN'T WAIT TO LEAVE.
YET NOW YOU RETURN. WERE YOU NOT HAPPY, IN THE CITY?
YES! NO. SOMETIMES. IT WASN'T SO MUCH FUN. THERE WAS LITTLE WORK AND LESS MONEY AND THE MAN I LOVED DIDN'T LOVE ME BACK--THOUGH HE WAS KIND, ORORO, HE DID CARE FOR ME. I'M GLAD I BEAR HIS CHILD.
I WOULD HAVE STAYED, IF NOT FOR MY BABY. I SHOULD HAVE MADE THIS TRIP WEEKS AGO, BUT I KEPT PUTTING IT OFF-- I WAS FRIGHTENED, OF MY PARENTS, THE ELDERS, HOW WILL THEY REACT?!
BUT THEY'RE MY FAMILY-- THAT'S MY HOME-- THE BABY IS AS MUCH A PART OF THEM AS I!

THE TRIBE WILL GIVE HIM HIS HEART AND SOUL--FROM THERE, HE'LL BE ABLE TO GO ANYWHERE, DO ANYTHING, WHILE NEVER LOSING THAT SPECIAL BOND WITH WHO AND WHAT HE IS.
NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT SENSE OF PLACE, OF BELONGING.
YOU ARE LUCKIER THAN I, SHANI.
I NEVER REALLY HAD THAT...
...UNTIL I MET THE X-MEN. THEY BECAME MY FAMILY.
AND YOU HAD THE COURAGE I LACKED...
...TO STRIKE OUT ON YOUR OWN...
...TO TAKE A RISK WITHOUT BEING PRODDED.
THROUGHOUT MY LIFE, I HAVE FELT DRIVEN BY FORCES AND ENTITIES OUTSIDE MYSELF.
XAVIER SPOKE TRULY. I WAS AFRAID.
DEEP DOWN INSIDE, I ALWAYS BELIEVED IT WOULD BE SAFER STAYING THE WAY I WAS RATHER THAN TRY SOMETHING NEW. GROWTH MEANT CHANGE AND CHANGE CARRIED WITH IT THE RISK OF BEING HURT.
WHAT A SHAM I WAS! STORM--THE PARAGON OF VIRTUE AND COURAGE--THE SERENE GODDESS WHO SOARED ABOVE THE COMMON HERD, UNTOUCHED AND UNTOUCHABLE...
... WHO OH SO NOBLY DENIED HERSELF ANY DECENT, HEARTFELT EMOTIONS BECAUSE THEY MIGHT AFFECT HER CONTROL OVER THE WEATHER AND, SHE FEARED, BRING HARM AND SUFFERING TO OTHERS.
SO CONVENIENT A SACRIFICE. I MADE MYSELF IMMUNE FROM WHAT I CONSIDERED WERE PETTY FEELINGS AND YEARNINGS AND DESIRES...
... WHEN, IN TRUTH, I WAS REALLY FLEEING AS HARD AND FAST AS I COULD FROM MY OWN HUMANITY.

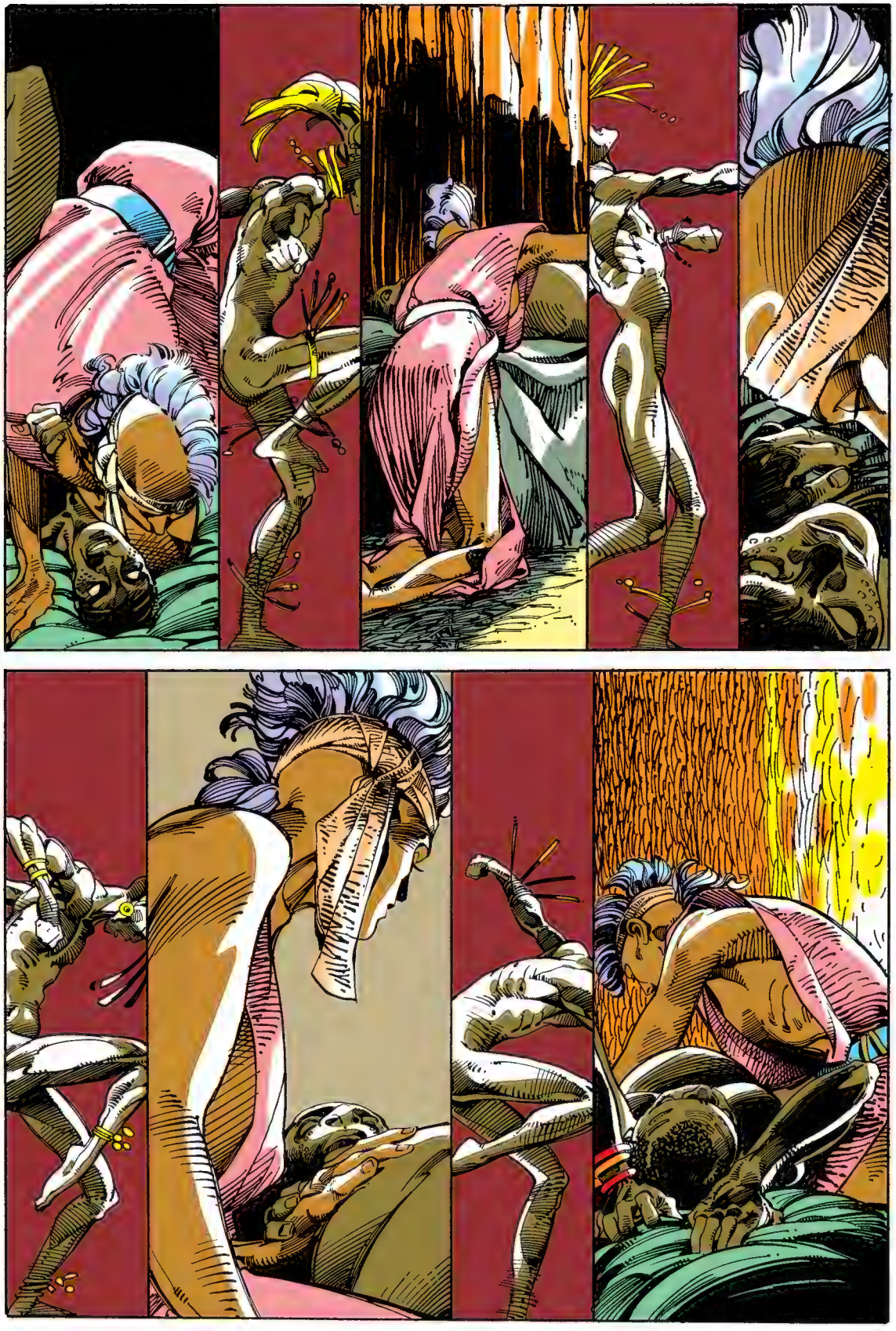

MORNING ALREADY...?
THE AIR IS STILL--SO QUIET AND CLEAR--THE SANDSTORM HAS FINALLY BLOWN ITSELF OUT!
BY THE BLESSED GODDESS--
--WHAT IN HER NAME IS *THAT*?!!

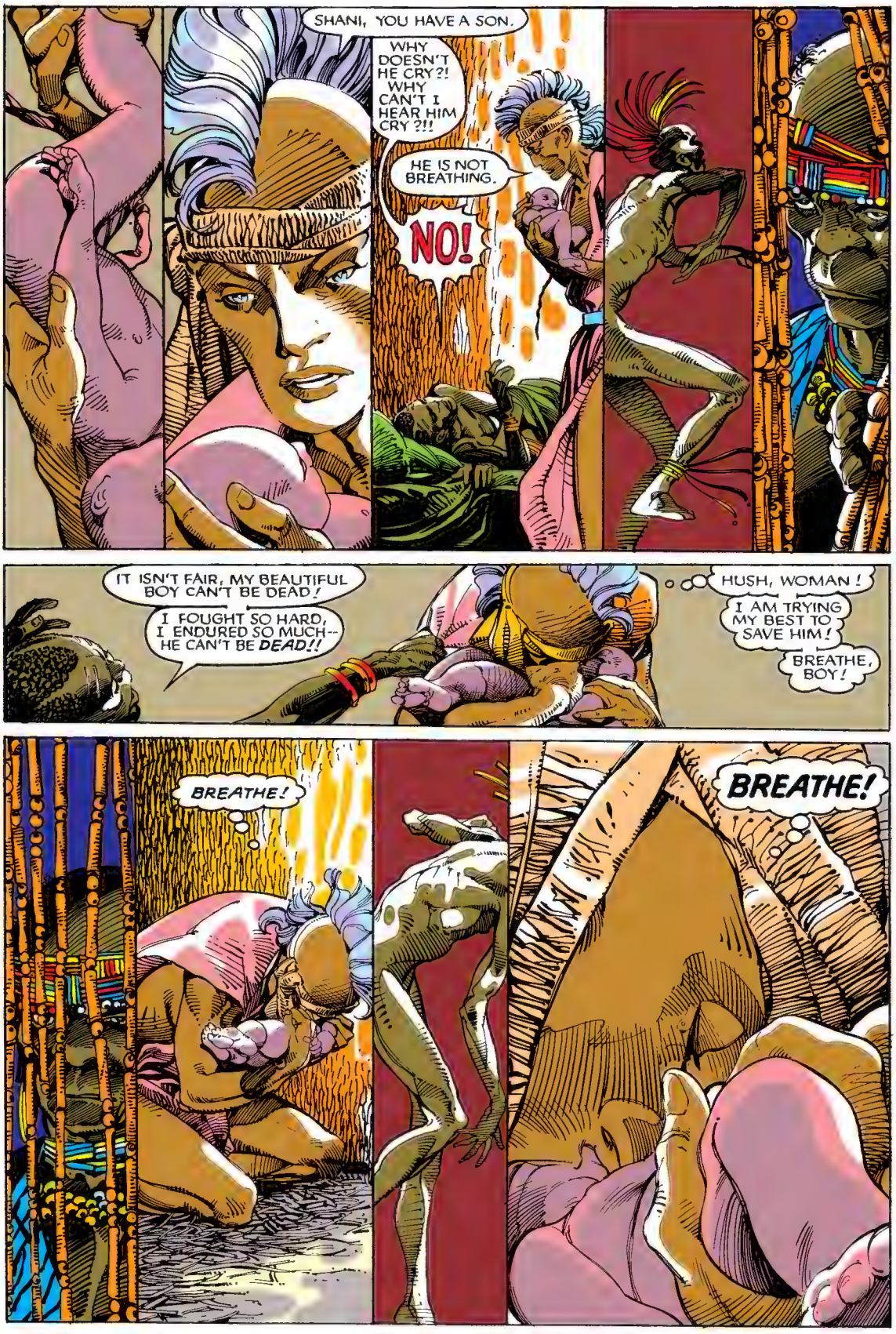

SOME GREAT MACHINE-- ABANDONED TO ROT.
THIS IS NOT MERELY SAND.
THERE WAS ARABLE SOIL HERE-- FARMLAND, AND NOT SO LONG AGO--
--YET NOW IT IS AS BARREN AND DESOLATE...
...AS THE MOON.
BY THE LOOKS OF THINGS, SCORES OF HECTARES WERE UNDER PLOW.
THIS MUST HAVE BEEN A PHENOMENALLY PROSPEROUS REGION.
BUT THE DESERT HAS RECLAIMED ALL SAVE A NARROW RING OF FIELDS SURROUNDING THE VILLAGE ITSELF.
ORORO, THERE IT IS! I'M HOME!!
POOR SHANI, SHE IS AS STUNNED BY THIS SIGHT AS I.
IT IS NOT AS SHE REMEMBERS.
SUCH A DRASTIC CHANGE IN SO SHORT A TIME-- WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?!
I'M FRIGHTENED, ORORO. THIS WAS A MISTAKE. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME.
TOO LATE FOR SECOND THOUGHTS, LITTLE ONE. WE CAN NEITHER OF US TRAVEL ANY FURTHER.
BE STRONG, SHANI. COME WHAT MAY, I SHALL STAND BESIDE YOU.

ORORO, MY PARENTS!
REVERED FATHER--BELOVED MOTHER--I... BEG THY PARDON FOR ANY DISHONOR I HAVE BROUGHT UPON OUR FAMILY AND NAME.
I CRAVE FORGIVENESS FOR MYSELF, A WELCOME FOR MY FRIEND...
... AND... THY BLESSINGS FOR THIS LIFE TO BE.
SAY SOMETHING, PLEASE?
ORORO, WHY WON'T THEY ANSWER?!
OH!?
WHAT IS IT, SHANI? WHO IS THIS?!
THE ELDER, MJNARI!
HE IS THE LAWSPEAKER, ORORO, LEADER OF OUR PEOPLE SINCE BEFORE MY MOTHER WAS BORN!!
YOU HAVE BEEN MISSED, SHANI.
TO BOTH YOU AND YOUR COMPANION, I OFFER WATER, SALT, BREAD AND FIRE.
WELCOME.
I TRY TO SMILE, TO SHARE MY YOUNG FRIEND'S RELIEF AND JOY...
...BUT I FIND I LACK...
...THE STRENGTH...

I DREAM OF MOUNTAINS.
ABOARD SHIP, BOUND FOR MOMBASA, I SAW THEM IN A VISION. I SENSED-- I KNEW-- THAT THERE, I WOULD FIND MY DESTINY.
Hmnh???
YET FOR ALL MY SEARCHING -- ACROSS EAST AFRICA AND THROUGH MY SOUL-- I HAVE NOT FOUND THEM.
MJNARI!
IT IS NIGHT-- HOW LONG HAVE I SLEPT?
NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH TO FULLY HEAL YOUR INJURIES.
PERHAPS SO, BUT THE REST HAS DONE A WORLD OF GOOD. I FEEL MUCH BETTER.
WE CARED FOR YOU, WIND-RIDER...
...AS BEST WE COULD.
YOU KNOW ME?
YES.
WHAT HAS HAPPENED?!
WHY DID YOU WAKE ME?!!
IT IS SHANI.
HER BABY WILL NOT COME.
SHE HAS BEEN CALLING FOR YOU. SHE IS IN A VERY BAD WAY.
YOUR PEOPLE DANCE TO AID HER?
TO PROPITIATE THE SPIRITS, YES.
A HOSPITAL WOULD BE OF MORE USE.
WE HAVE NO VEHICLE, ORORO.
AND EVEN IF TRANSPORTATION WAS SENT US, SHANI WOULDN'T SURVIVE THE TRIP.

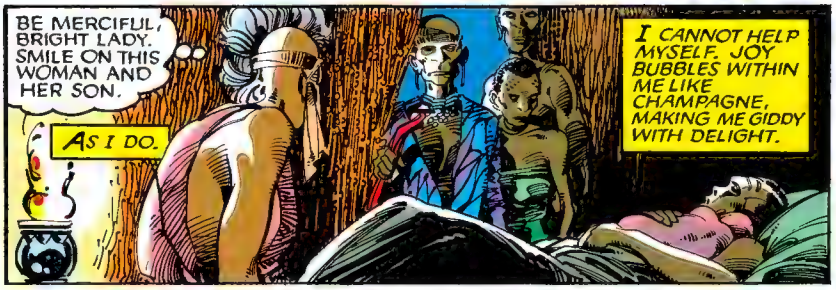
BUT WHAT CAN I DO?!?
MJNARI, I AM NO MIDWIFE!
YOU PLEDGED TO STAND BY THE GIRL.
AND I SHALL...
...BUT--!?!
SHANI, I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO...
HELP ME, ORORO--HELP ME AN' MY BABY BOTH -- PLEASE!
I HAVE SOME TRAINING, SHANI, BUT I AM NO PHYSICIAN.
I HEAR MY SON CRYING WITHIN ME!
HE'S SCARED, ORORO, HE DOESN'T WANT TO DIE!
HE WANTS TO BE BORN!
HE SHALL!

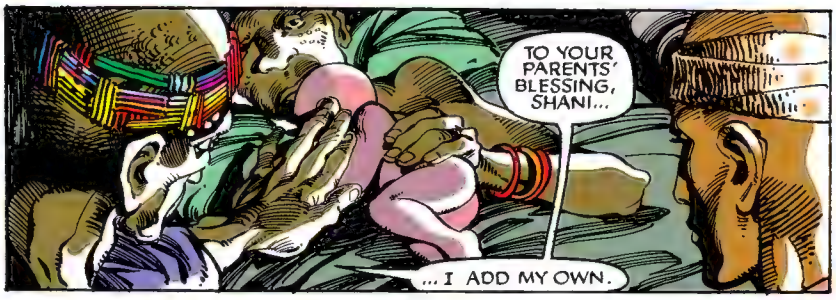



SHANI, YOU HAVE A SON.
WHY DOESN'T HE CRY?! WHY CAN'T I HEAR HIM CRY ?!!
HE IS NOT BREATHING.
NO!
IT ISN'T FAIR, MY BEAUTIFUL BOY CAN'T BE DEAD!
I FOUGHT SO HARD, I ENDURED SO MUCH-- HE CAN'T BE DEAD!!
HUSH, WOMAN!
I AM TRYING MY BEST TO SAVE HIM!
BREATHE, BOY!
BREATHE!
BREATHE!

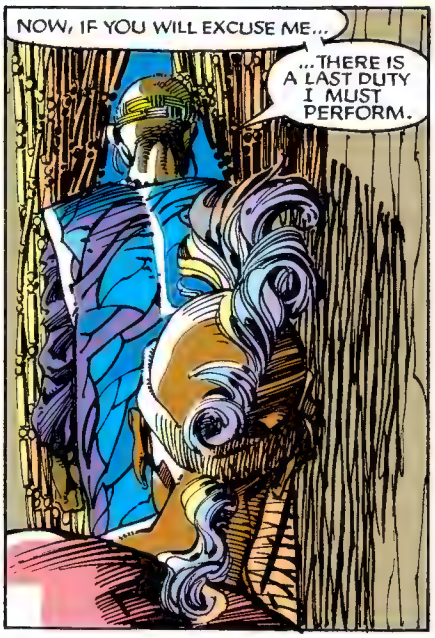
LISTEN!
DO YOU HEAR?!
THE CHILD CRIES!
HE--
--LIVES!!

WAS I IN TIME-- DID I DO THE RIGHT THING-- WILL HE GROW UP HEALTHY AND WHOLE?!
Oh, GODDESS, I PRAY SO.


BE MERCIFUL, BRIGHT LADY. SMILE ON THIS WOMAN AND HER SON.
AS I DO.
I CANNOT HELP MYSELF. JOY BUBBLES WITHIN ME LIKE CHAMPAGNE, MAKING ME GIDDY WITH DELIGHT.

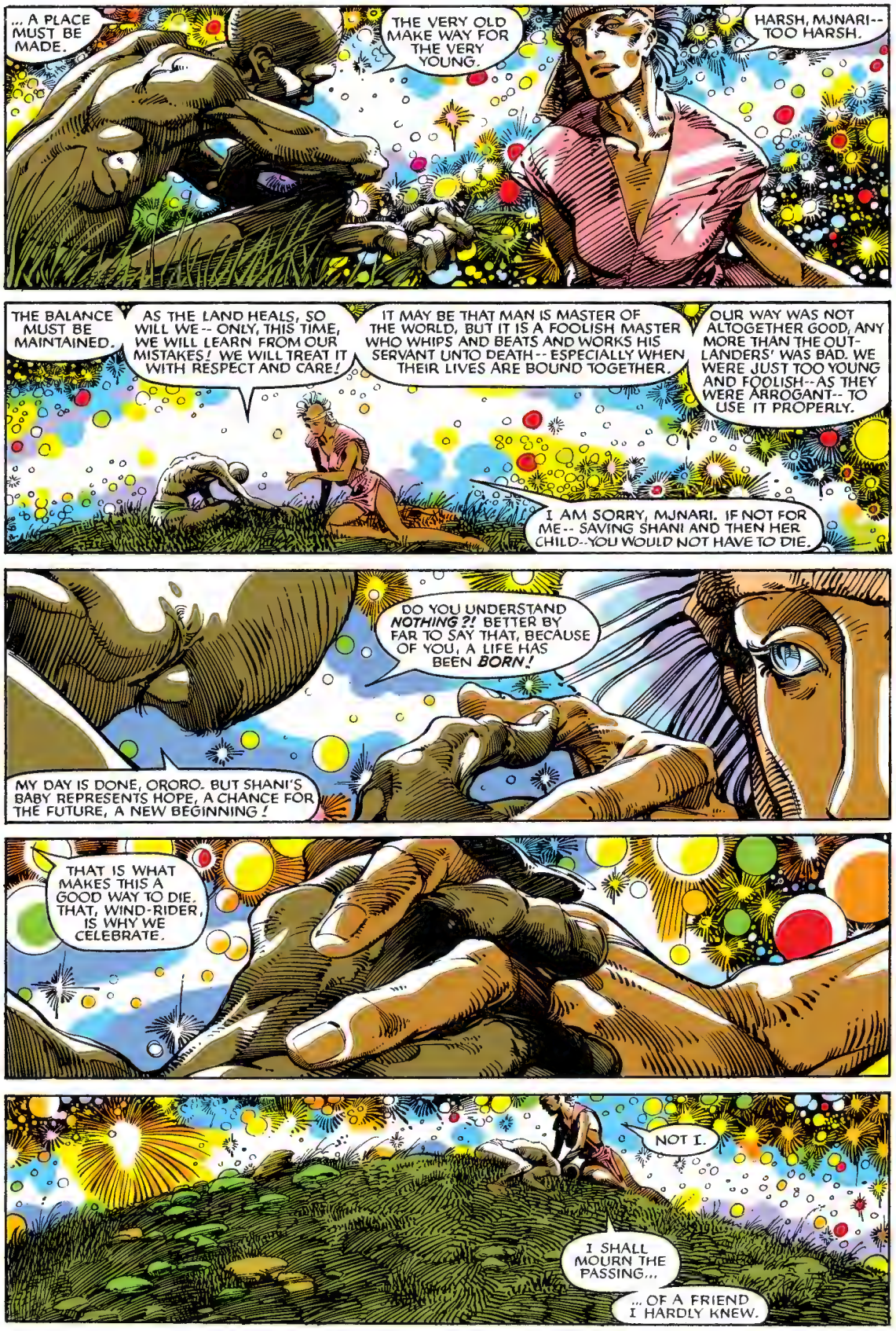

TO YOUR PARENTS' BLESSING, SHANI...
...I ADD MY OWN.

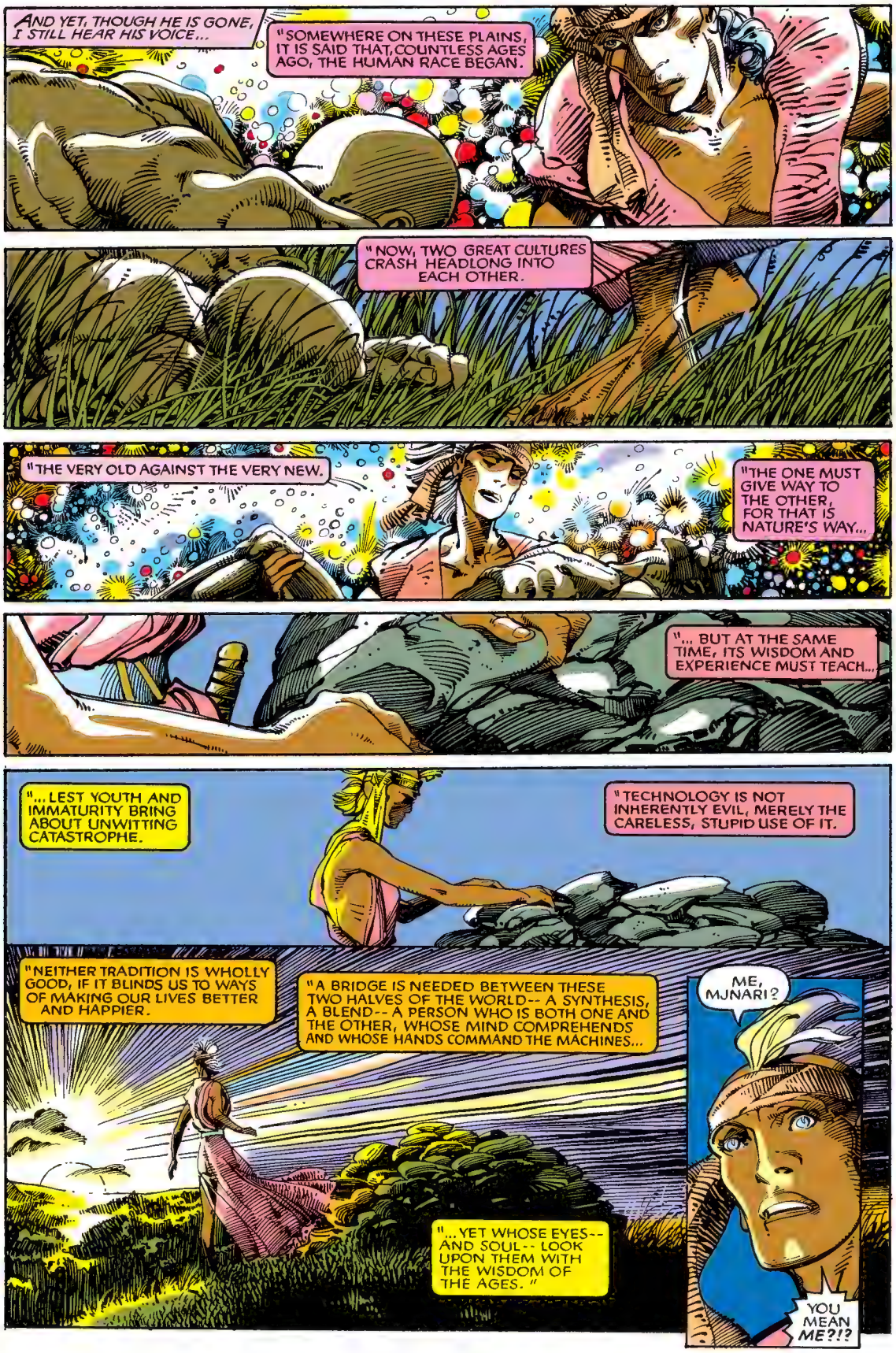
SO NATURAL A MOMENT, WIND-RIDER...
...YET SO WONDROUS.
LIFE IS THE MIRACLE THAT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME.

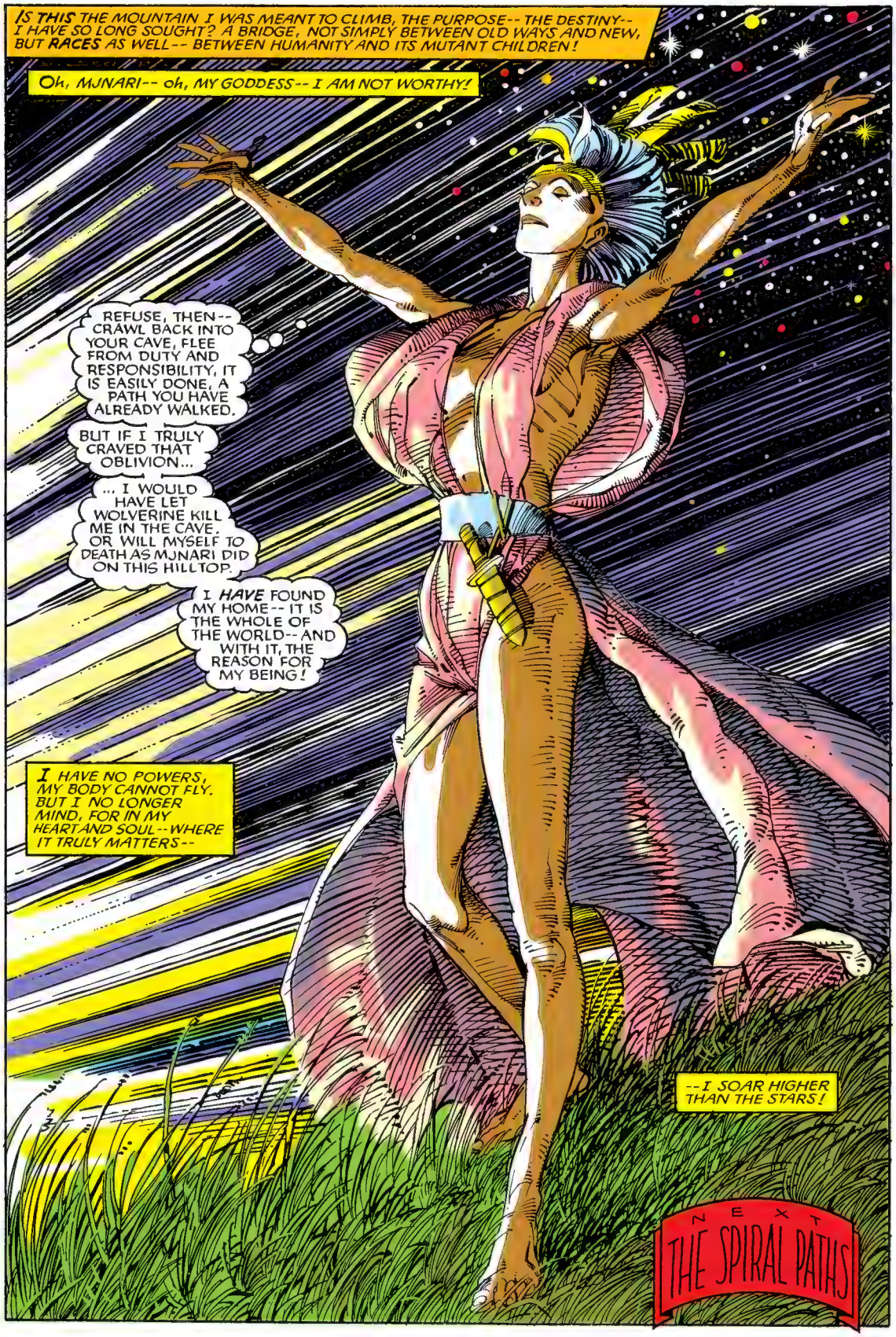

NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME...
...THERE IS A LAST DUTY I MUST PERFORM.

THE SONG HAS CHANGED.
BEFORE, THERE WAS HOPE--THE PEOPLE SANG TO GIVE SHANI STRENGTH AND COURAGE.
NOW, AS THEY STRIP MJNARI OF HIS ROBES AND BADGES OF OFFICE...
... THE MUSIC, THEIR VOICES, MIX TRIUMPH AND CELEBRATION...
... WITH SADNESS.
THE VILLAGERS FOLLOW TO THE EDGE OF THE FIELDS...
... AND IT IS THEN I REALIZE THAT HE WILL NOT BE COMING BACK.
MJNARI!
ELDER-- WAIT!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
I THINK YOU KNOW.
WHY?!
BECAUSE I MUST.

LOOK ABOUT YOU, ORORO. WHEN I WAS A BOY, WE LIVED IN HARMONY WITH OUR WORLD. IT WAS A HARD LIFE, BUT WE WERE SATISFIED.
THEN, OUTLANDERS CAME WITH THEIR MACHINES AND THEIR TECHNOLOGY, PROMISING TO MAKE THE DESERT BLOOM. AND THEY PROVED AS GOOD AS THEIR WORD--OUR LAND TURNED GREEN AND VERDANT.
THE OLD WAYS, WE GLADLY CAST ASIDE-- BELIEVING WE WOULD NEVER NEED THEM AGAIN.
FOR A WHILE, WE HELD *PARADISE* IN OUR HANDS.
BUT EACH YEAR, MORE FERTILIZER WAS REQUIRED TO RAISE THE SAME AMOUNT OF FOOD. OUR FLOCKS OVER-GRAZED THE LAND, AND THE *SIMOON* WINDS BLEW AWAY THE TOPSOIL.
THERE WAS WAR.
IT BECAME HARDER AND HARDER TO ACQUIRE FUEL FOR THE MACHINES.
AND WHEN THEY BROKE DOWN,,,
,,, WE COULD NOT AFFORD PARTS TO FIX THEM.
WITHOUT THEM, WE COULD NOT PROPERLY WORK THE FIELDS. WITHOUT FERTILIZER, THE LAND BECAME BARREN. WITHOUT PUMPS FOR THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM, THERE WAS NO WATER TO COMBAT THE DROUGHT.
AND SO, WE WATCHED HELPLESSLY AS THE DESERT RECLAIMED ITS OWN.
HOW PROUD WE HAD BEEN, HOW QUICKLY WE WERE HUMBLED.
THERE WERE TOO MANY OF US FOR THE LAND THAT REMAINED TO SUPPORT. MANY FLED, MANY MORE DIED. A NEW BALANCE WAS STRUCK. MY PEOPLE NUMBER AS MANY AS OUR CROPS WILL SUSTAIN, THERE CAN BE NO MORE.
SO, FOR EACH CHILD THAT IS BORN...


... A PLACE MUST BE MADE.
THE VERY OLD MAKE WAY FOR THE VERY YOUNG.
HARSH, MJNARI-- TOO HARSH.
THE BALANCE MUST BE MAINTAINED.
AS THE LAND HEALS, SO WILL WE-- ONLY, THIS TIME, WE WILL LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES! WE WILL TREAT IT WITH RESPECT AND CARE!
IT MAY BE THAT MAN IS MASTER OF THE WORLD, BUT IT IS A FOOLISH MASTER WHO WHIPS AND BEATS AND WORKS HIS SERVANT UNTO DEATH-- ESPECIALLY WHEN THEIR LIVES ARE BOUND TOGETHER.
OUR WAY WAS NOT ALTOGETHER GOOD, ANY MORE THAN THE OUT-LANDERS' WAS BAD. WE WERE JUST TOO YOUNG AND FOOLISH--AS THEY WERE ARROGANT-- TO USE IT PROPERLY.
I AM SORRY, MJNARI. IF NOT FOR ME-- SAVING SHANI AND THEN HER CHILD--YOU WOULD NOT HAVE TO DIE.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOTHING?! BETTER BY FAR TO SAY THAT, BECAUSE OF YOU, A LIFE HAS BEEN BORN!
MY DAY IS DONE, ORORO. BUT SHANI'S BABY REPRESENTS HOPE, A CHANCE FOR THE FUTURE, A NEW BEGINNING!
THAT IS WHAT MAKES THIS A GOOD WAY TO DIE. THAT, WIND-RIDER, IS WHY WE CELEBRATE.
NOT I.
I SHALL MOURN THE PASSING...
... OF A FRIEND I HARDLY KNEW.


AND YET, THOUGH HE IS GONE, I STILL HEAR HIS VOICE...
"SOMEWHERE ON THESE PLAINS, IT IS SAID THAT, COUNTLESS AGES AGO, THE HUMAN RACE BEGAN.
"NOW, TWO GREAT CULTURES CRASH HEADLONG INTO EACH OTHER.
"THE VERY OLD AGAINST THE VERY NEW.
"THE ONE MUST GIVE WAY TO THE OTHER, FOR THAT IS NATURE'S WAY...
"... BUT AT THE SAME TIME, ITS WISDOM AND EXPERIENCE MUST TEACH...
"... LEST YOUTH AND IMMATURITY BRING ABOUT UNWITTING CATASTROPHE.
"TECHNOLOGY IS NOT INHERENTLY EVIL, MERELY THE CARELESS, STUPID USE OF IT.
"NEITHER TRADITION IS WHOLLY GOOD, IF IT BLINDS US TO WAYS OF MAKING OUR LIVES BETTER AND HAPPIER.
"A BRIDGE IS NEEDED BETWEEN THESE TWO HALVES OF THE WORLD-- A SYNTHESIS, A BLEND-- A PERSON WHO IS BOTH ONE AND THE OTHER, WHOSE MIND COMPREHENDS AND WHOSE HANDS COMMAND THE MACHINES...
"... YET WHOSE EYES-- AND SOUL-- LOOK UPON THEM WITH THE WISDOM OF THE AGES."
ME, MJNARI?
YOU MEAN ME?!?


IS THIS THE MOUNTAIN I WAS MEANT TO CLIMB, THE PURPOSE-- THE DESTINY-- I HAVE SO LONG SOUGHT? A BRIDGE, NOT SIMPLY BETWEEN OLD WAYS AND NEW, BUT RACES AS WELL-- BETWEEN HUMANITY AND ITS MUTANT CHILDREN!
Oh, MJNARI-- oh, MY GODDESS-- I AM NOT WORTHY!
REFUSE, THEN-- CRAWL BACK INTO YOUR CAVE, FLEE FROM DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY, IT IS EASILY DONE, A PATH YOU HAVE ALREADY WALKED.
BUT IF I TRULY CRAVED THAT OBLIVION...
... I WOULD HAVE LET WOLVERINE KILL ME IN THE CAVE. OR WILL MYSELF TO DEATH AS MJNARI DID ON THIS HILLTOP.
I HAVE FOUND MY HOME-- IT IS THE WHOLE OF THE WORLD-- AND WITH IT, THE REASON FOR MY BEING!
I HAVE NO POWERS, MY BODY CANNOT FLY. BUT I NO LONGER MIND, FOR IN MY HEART AND SOUL--WHERE IT TRULY MATTERS--
--I SOAR HIGHER THAN THE STARS!
NEXT
THE SPIRAL PATHS!

MARVEL®
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN®
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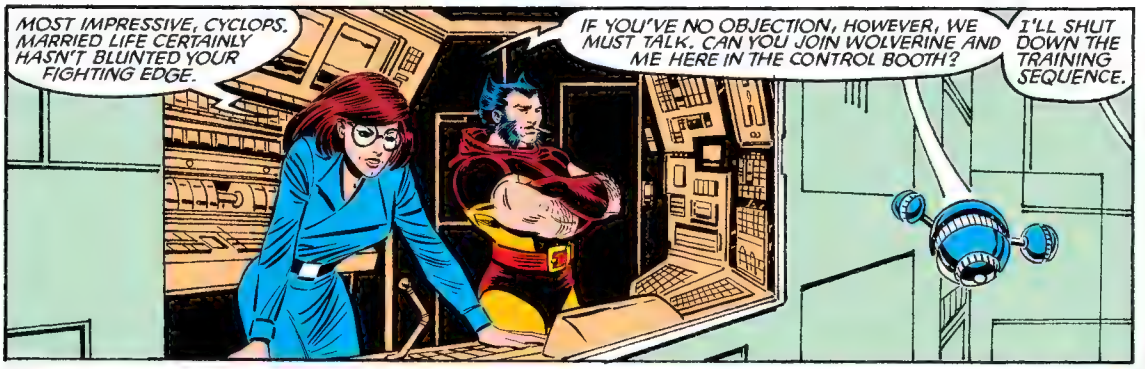
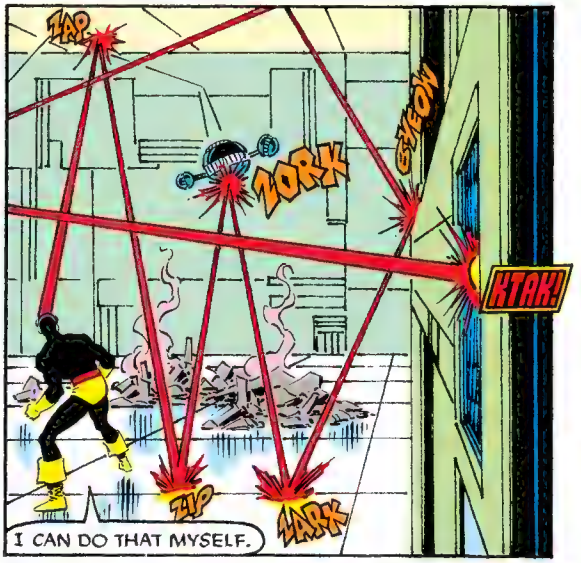
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
born again!
ROMITA JR

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
THE SPIRAL PATH
STARRING THE UNCANNY X-MEN
SCOTT SUMMERS WAS A LOST AND LONELY LITTLE BOY-- FOUND BADLY INJURED WITH HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, ALEX, IN AN OPEN, EMPTY, MID-WINTER PRAIRIE. OF FAMILY, LIFE-- ANYTHING SAVE HIS NAME-- HE HAD NO MEMORY, AND SO WAS RAISED IN A STATE ORPHANAGE.
IN HIS TEENS, HE DISCOVERED HE WAS A MUTANT, WHOSE EYES FIRED BOLTS OF WELL-NIGH IRRESISTABLE FORCE.
THAT WAS WHEN HE BECAME AN X-MAN.
CHRIS CLAREMONT WRITER
JOHN ROMITA, Jr. & DAN GREEN ARTISTS
ORZ & PARKER letterers
GLYNIS OLIVER, colorist
ANN NOCENTI EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

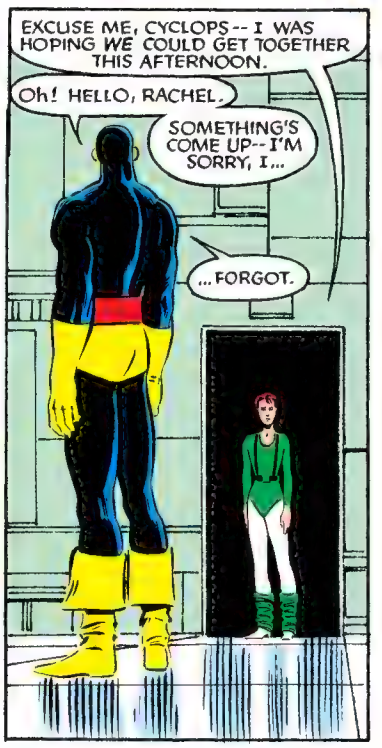

MOST IMPRESSIVE, CYCLOPS. MARRIED LIFE CERTAINLY HASN'T BLUNTED YOUR FIGHTING EDGE.
IF YOU'VE NO OBJECTION, HOWEVER, WE MUST TALK. CAN YOU JOIN WOLVERINE AND ME HERE IN THE CONTROL BOOTH?
I'LL SHUT DOWN THE TRAINING SEQUENCE.

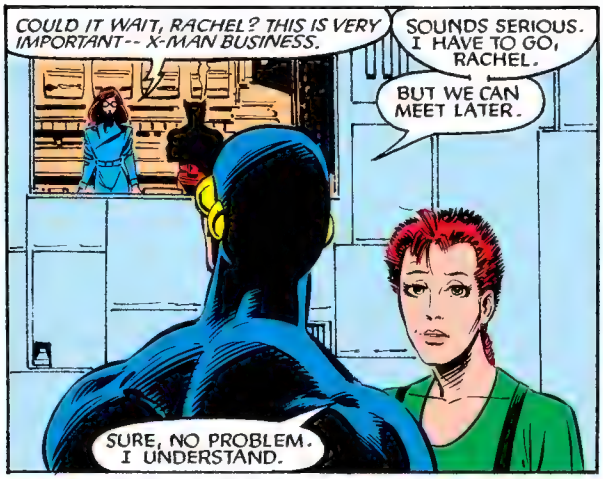
NO NEED, Dr. MacTAGGERT.

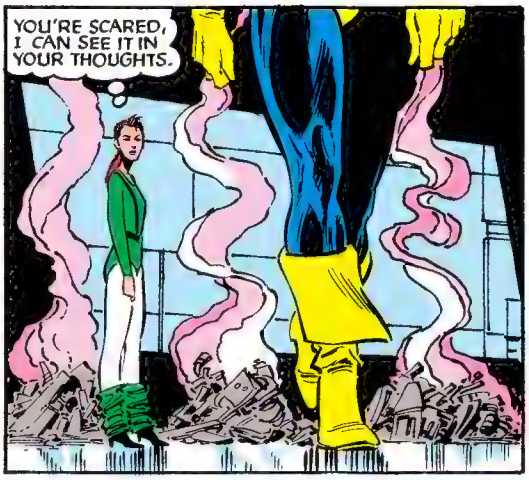

ZAP
ZORK
GYEOW
KTAK!
ZIP
ZARK
I CAN DO THAT MYSELF.

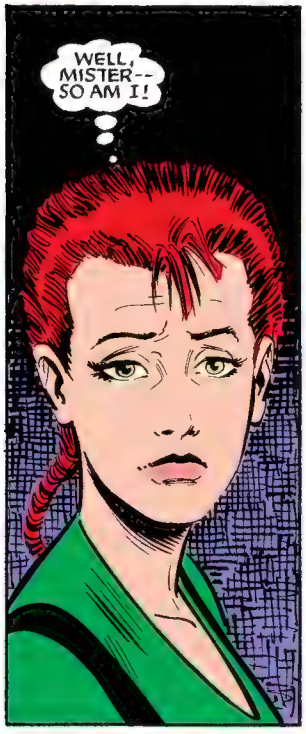
VERY, VERY NICE.
REMIND ME NEVER TO FACE YOU OVER A POOL TABLE.
CLAP CLAP CLAP

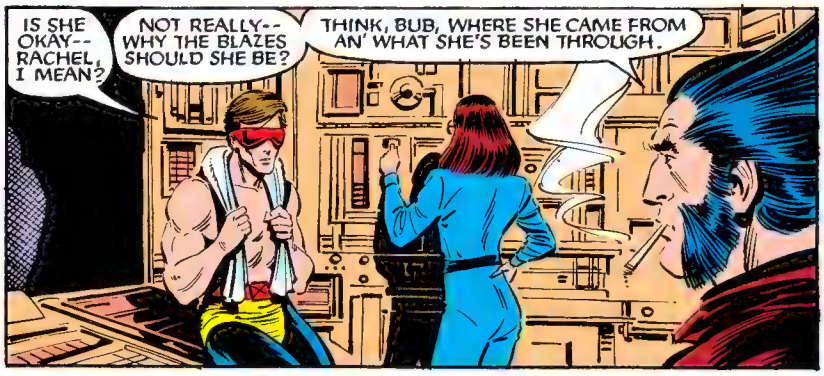
PRAISE INDEED, WOLVERINE.
RUN THE CLEAN-UP PROGRAM, WILL YOU PLEASE, MOIRA--TO TIDY THIS MESS I'VE MADE?
I'LL BE UPSTAIRS AS SOON AS I'VE TOWELED MYSELF OFF.

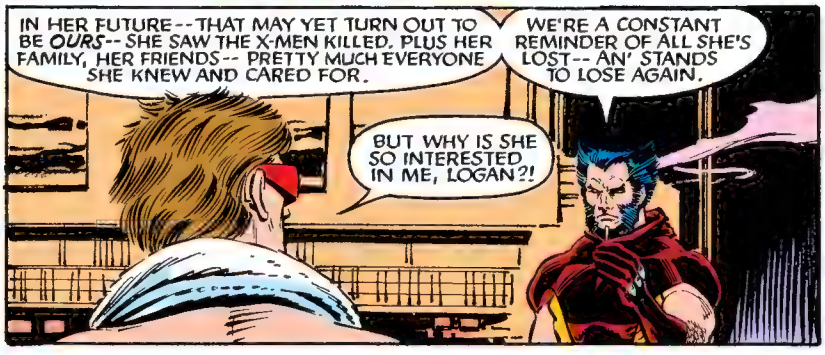

EXCUSE ME, CYCLOPS-- I WAS HOPING WE COULD GET TOGETHER THIS AFTERNOON.
Oh! HELLO, RACHEL.
SOMETHING'S COME UP-- I'M SORRY, I...
...FORGOT.


COULD IT WAIT, RACHEL? THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT-- X-MAN BUSINESS.
SOUNDS SERIOUS. I HAVE TO GO, RACHEL.
BUT WE CAN MEET LATER.
SURE, NO PROBLEM. I UNDERSTAND.

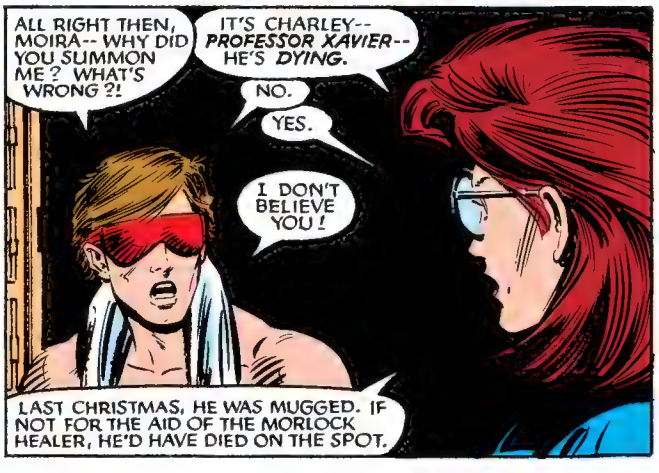

YOU'RE SCARED, I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR THOUGHTS.

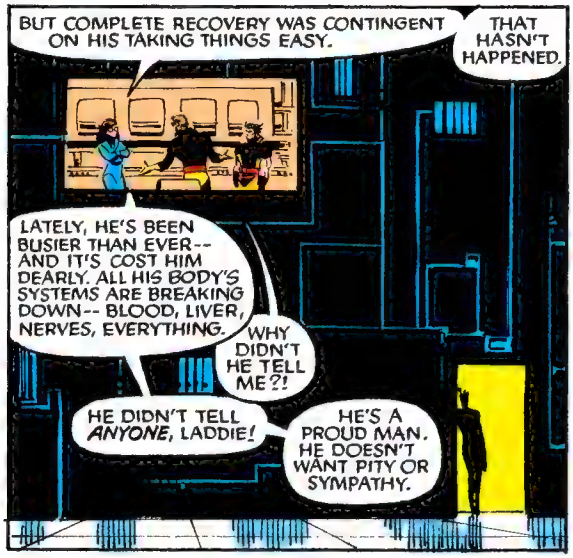

WELL, MISTER-- SO AM I!

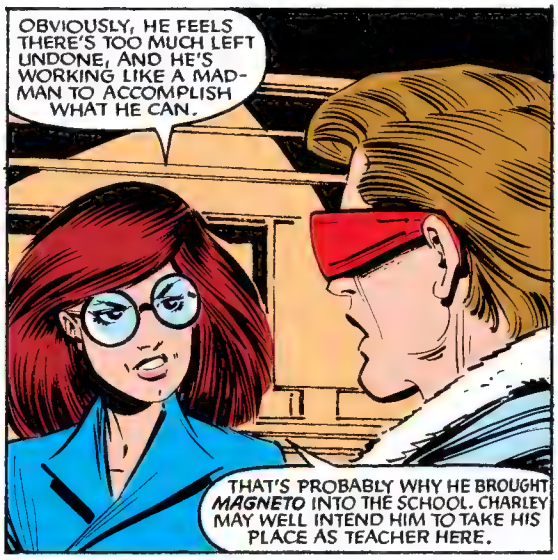

IS SHE OKAY-- RACHEL, I MEAN?
NOT REALLY-- WHY THE BLAZES SHOULD SHE BE?
THINK, BUB, WHERE SHE CAME FROM AN' WHAT SHE'S BEEN THROUGH.

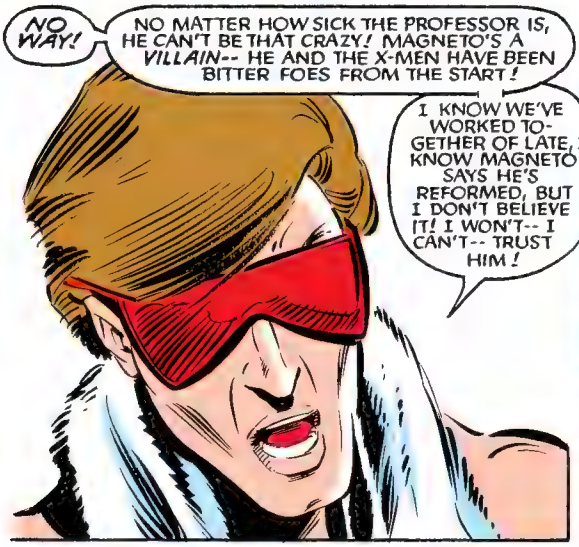

IN HER FUTURE--THAT MAY YET TURN OUT TO BE *OURS*-- SHE SAW THE X-MEN KILLED, PLUS HER FAMILY, HER FRIENDS-- PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE SHE KNEW AND CARED FOR.
WE'RE A CONSTANT REMINDER OF ALL SHE'S LOST-- AN' STANDS TO LOSE AGAIN.
BUT WHY IS SHE SO INTERESTED IN ME, LOGAN?!

GENTLEMEN! I'M AFRAID I'VE NEITHER TIME NOR PATIENCE TO DEAL WITH WHAT MAY BE. MY CONCERN IS THE WORLD AS IT IS!
NOT IDLE SPECULATION, WOLVERINE-- BUT REALITY!

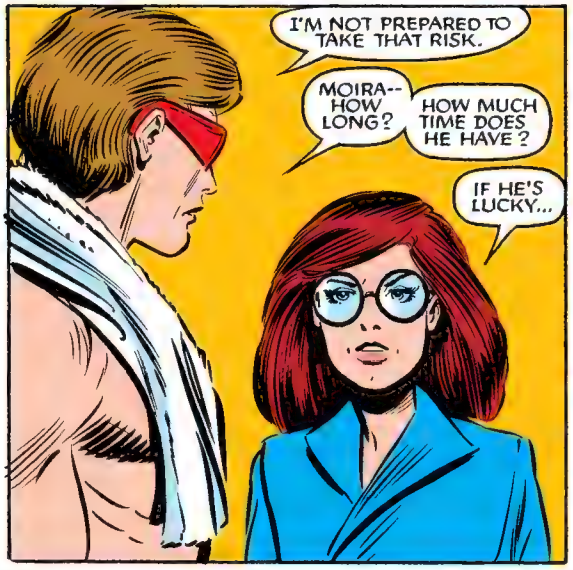

ALL RIGHT THEN, MOIRA-- WHY DID YOU SUMMON ME? WHAT'S WRONG?!
IT'S CHARLEY-- *PROFESSOR XAVIER*-- HE'S *DYING*.
NO.
YES.
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!
LAST CHRISTMAS, HE WAS MUGGED. IF NOT FOR THE AID OF THE MORLOCK HEALER, HE'D HAVE DIED ON THE SPOT.

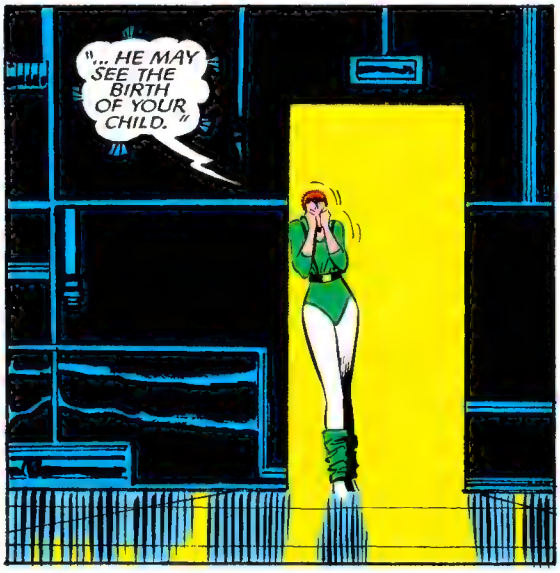

BUT COMPLETE RECOVERY WAS CONTINGENT ON HIS TAKING THINGS EASY.
THAT HASN'T HAPPENED.
LATELY, HE'S BEEN BUSIER THAN EVER-- AND IT'S COST HIM DEARLY. ALL HIS BODY'S SYSTEMS ARE BREAKING DOWN-- BLOOD, LIVER, NERVES, EVERYTHING.
WHY DIDN'T HE TELL ME?!
HE DIDN'T TELL *ANYONE*, LADDIE!
HE'S A PROUD MAN. HE DOESN'T WANT PITY OR SYMPATHY.

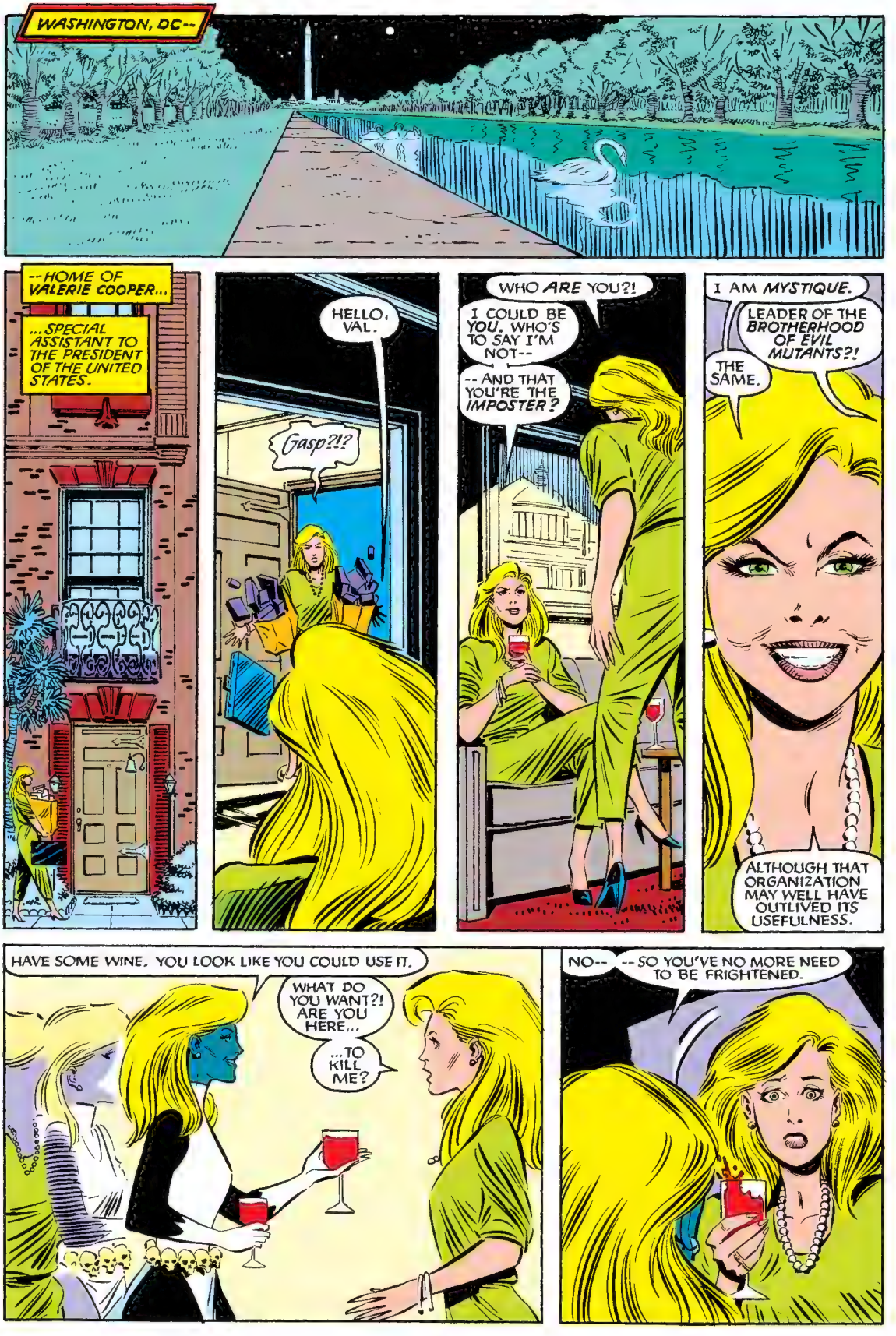

OBVIOUSLY, HE FEELS THERE'S TOO MUCH LEFT UNDONE, AND HE'S WORKING LIKE A MAD-MAN TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT HE CAN.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY HE BROUGHT *MAGNETO* INTO THE SCHOOL. CHARLEY MAY WELL INTEND HIM TO TAKE HIS PLACE AS TEACHER HERE.

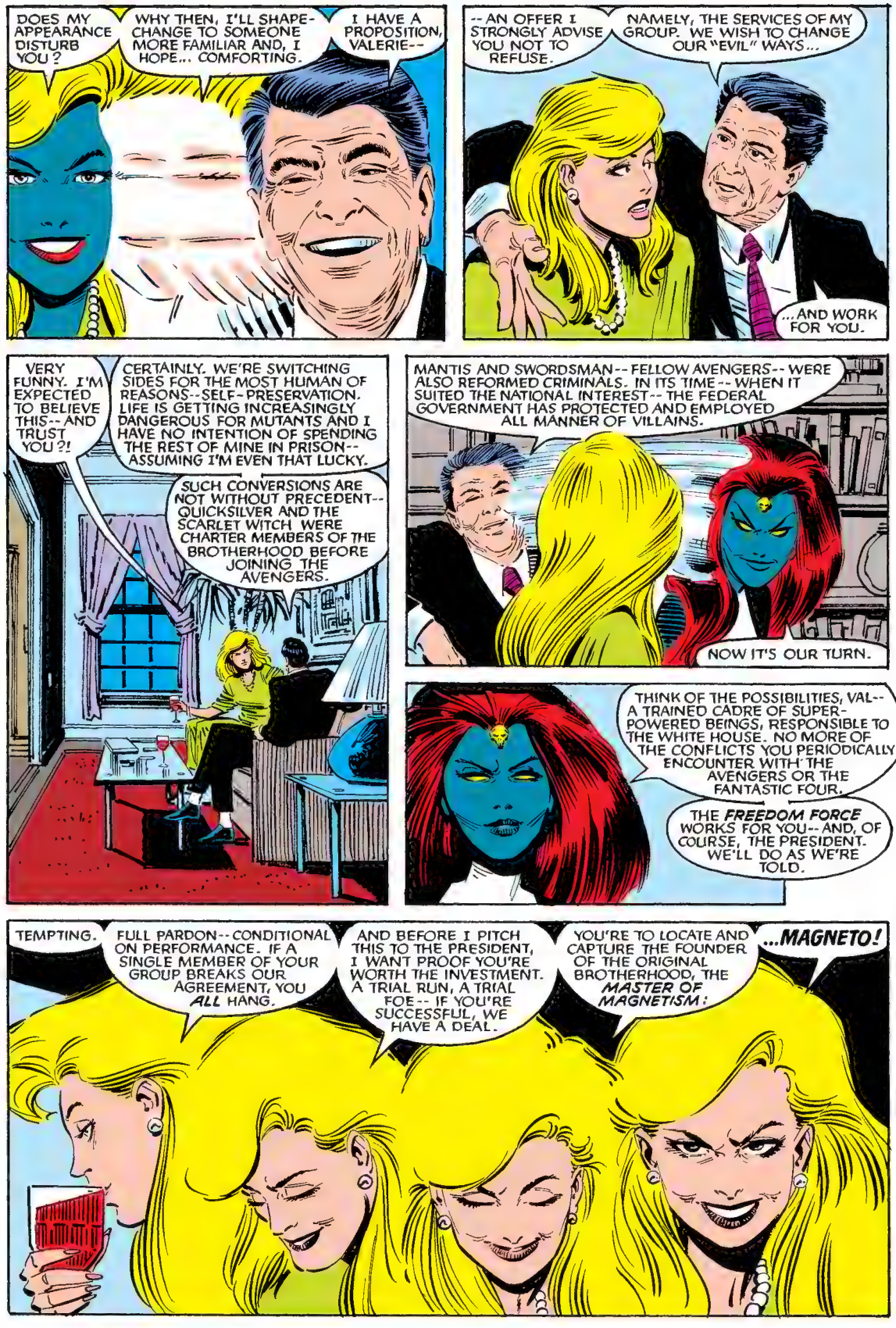

NO WAY!
NO MATTER HOW SICK THE PROFESSOR IS, HE CAN'T BE THAT CRAZY! MAGNETO'S A *VILLAIN*-- HE AND THE X-MEN HAVE BEEN BITTER FOES FROM THE START!
I KNOW WE'VE WORKED TOGETHER OF LATE, I KNOW MAGNETO SAYS HE'S REFORMED, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I WON'T-- I CAN'T-- TRUST HIM!

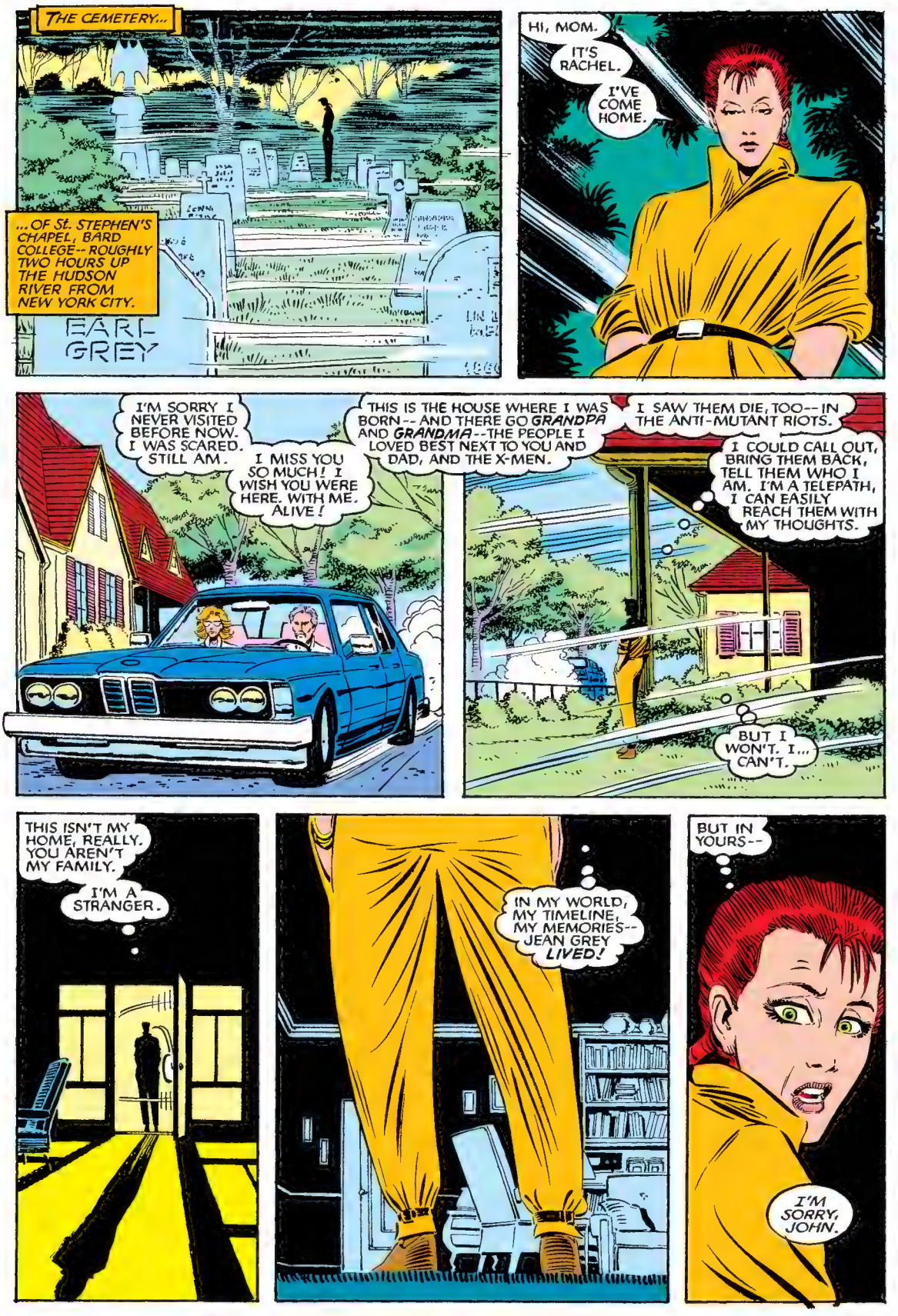
TO ME, IF CHARLES HANDS THIS SCHOOL-- THE X-MEN AND NEW MUTANTS-- OVER TO MAGNETO, HE'S AS GOOD AS SIGNED OUR DEATH WARRANTS!
YOU COULD BE WRONG, BUB.

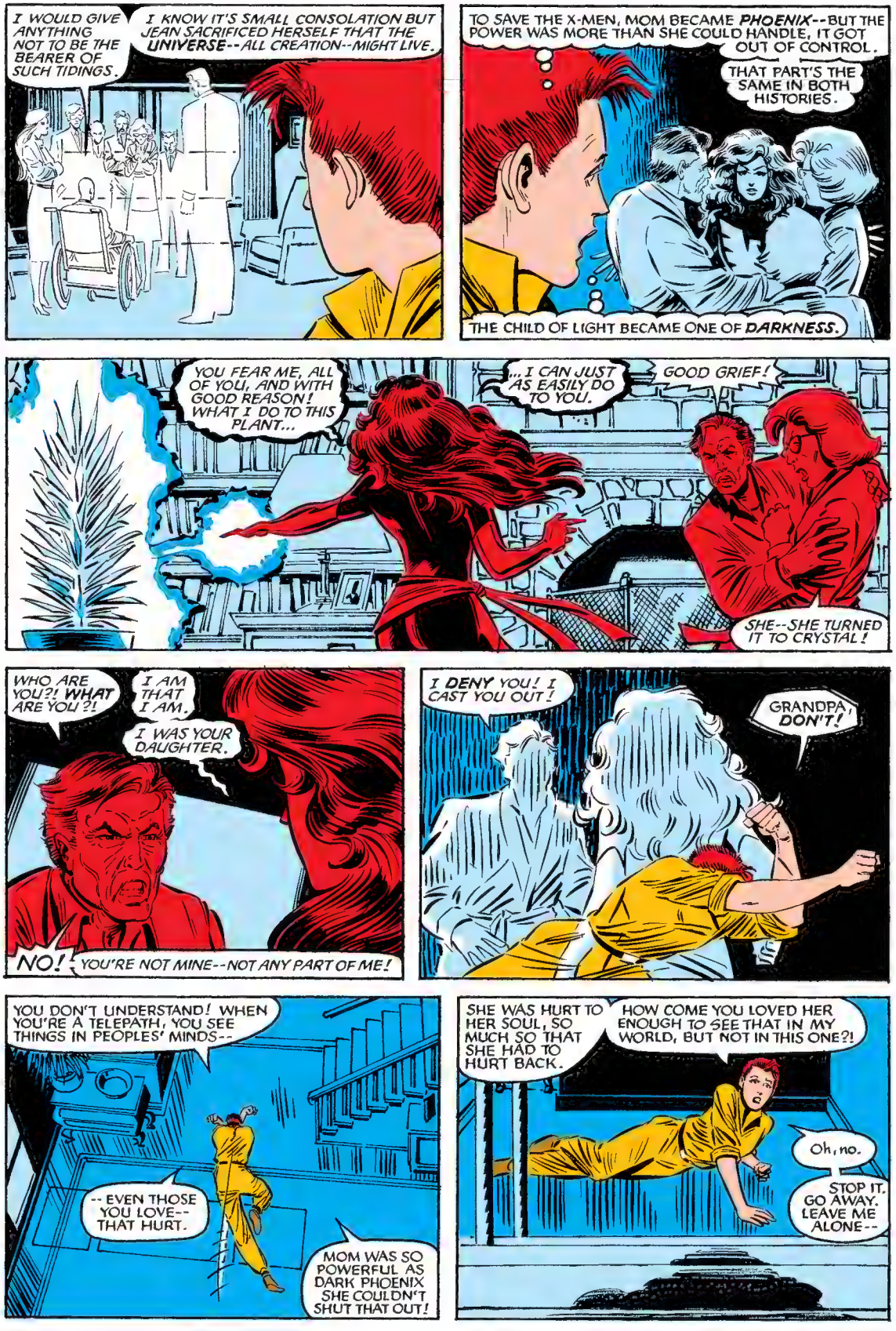

I'M NOT PREPARED TO TAKE THAT RISK.
MOIRA-- HOW LONG?
HOW MUCH TIME DOES HE HAVE?
IF HE'S LUCKY...

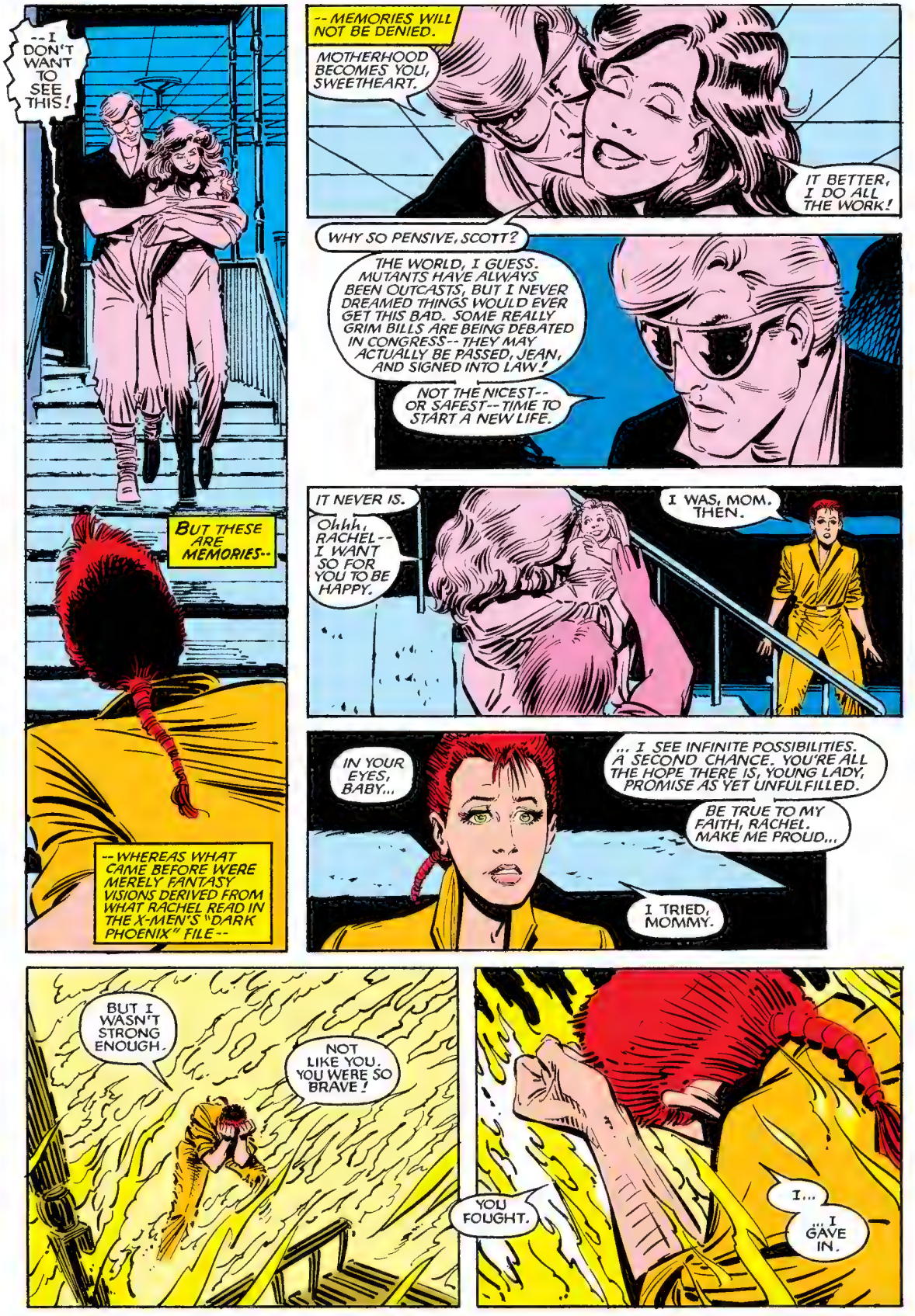

"... HE MAY SEE THE BIRTH OF YOUR CHILD."

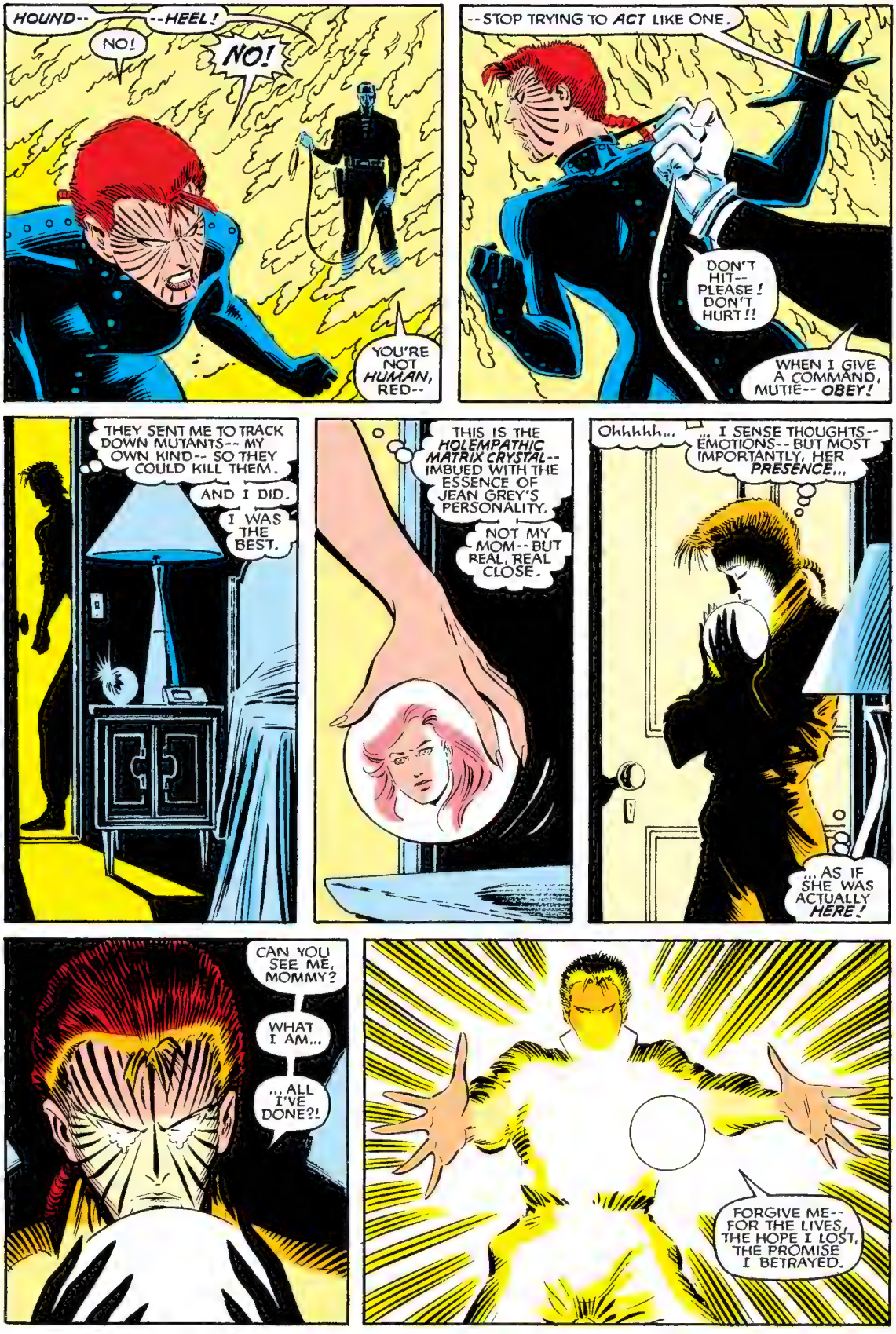

WASHINGTON, DC--
--HOME OF VALERIE COOPER...
...SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
HELLO, VAL.
Gasp?!?
WHO ARE YOU?!
I COULD BE YOU. WHO'S TO SAY I'M NOT--
--AND THAT YOU'RE THE IMPOSTER?
I AM MYSTIQUE.
LEADER OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS?!
THE SAME.
ALTHOUGH THAT ORGANIZATION MAY WELL HAVE OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS.
HAVE SOME WINE. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE IT.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?! ARE YOU HERE...
...TO KILL ME?
NO--
--SO YOU'VE NO MORE NEED TO BE FRIGHTENED.

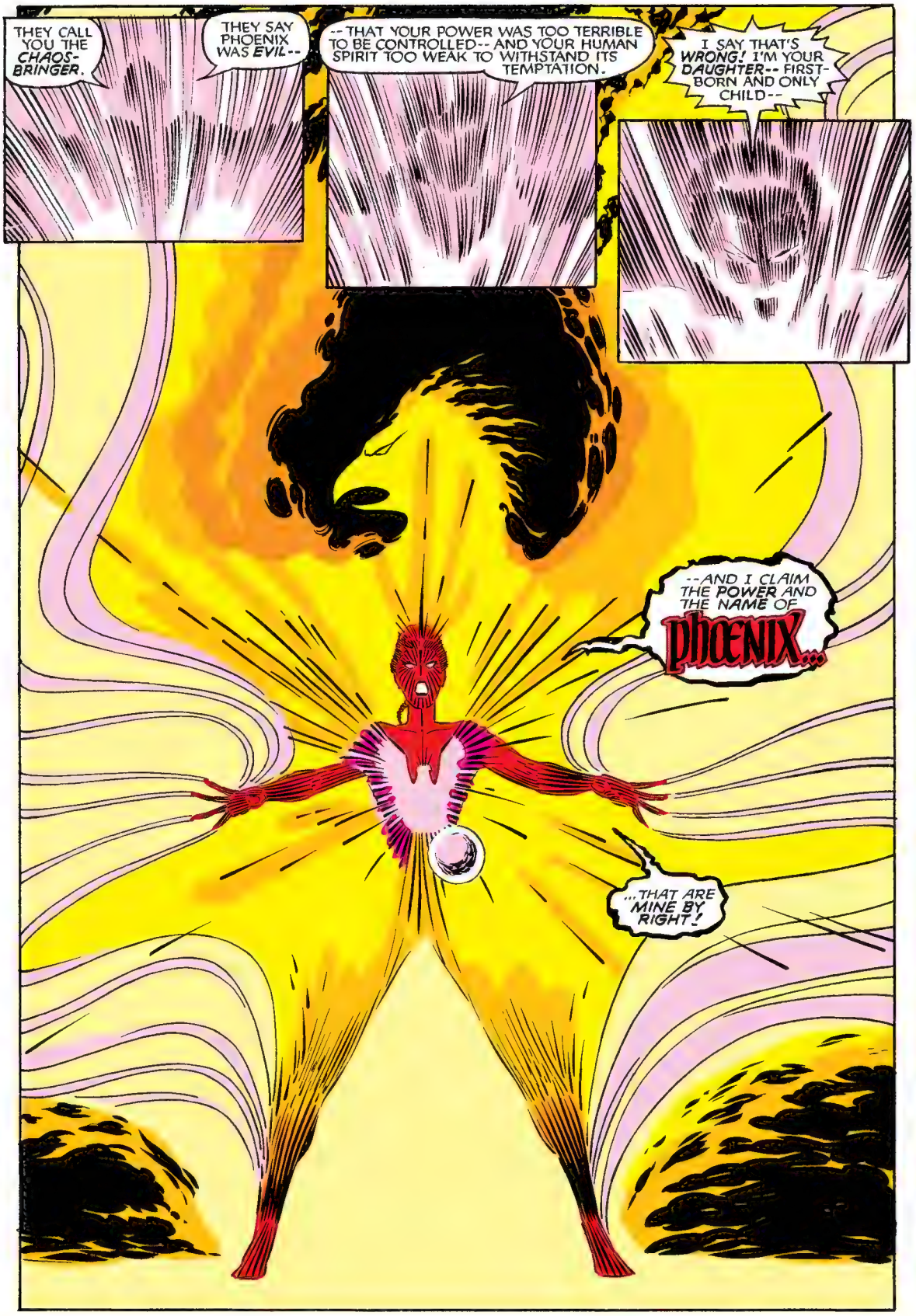

DOES MY APPEARANCE DISTURB YOU?
WHY THEN, I'LL SHAPE-CHANGE TO SOMEONE MORE FAMILIAR AND, I HOPE... COMFORTING.
I HAVE A PROPOSITION, VALERIE--
-- AN OFFER I STRONGLY ADVISE YOU NOT TO REFUSE.
NAMELY, THE SERVICES OF MY GROUP. WE WISH TO CHANGE OUR "EVIL" WAYS...
...AND WORK FOR YOU.
VERY FUNNY. I'M EXPECTED TO BELIEVE THIS-- AND TRUST YOU?!
CERTAINLY. WE'RE SWITCHING SIDES FOR THE MOST HUMAN OF REASONS--SELF-PRESERVATION. LIFE IS GETTING INCREASINGLY DANGEROUS FOR MUTANTS AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SPENDING THE REST OF MINE IN PRISON-- ASSUMING I'M EVEN THAT LUCKY.
SUCH CONVERSIONS ARE NOT WITHOUT PRECEDENT-- QUICKSILVER AND THE SCARLET WITCH WERE CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE BROTHERHOOD BEFORE JOINING THE AVENGERS.
MANTIS AND SWORDSMAN-- FELLOW AVENGERS-- WERE ALSO REFORMED CRIMINALS. IN ITS TIME-- WHEN IT SUITED THE NATIONAL INTEREST-- THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS PROTECTED AND EMPLOYED ALL MANNER OF VILLAINS.
NOW IT'S OUR TURN.
THINK OF THE POSSIBILITIES, VAL-- A TRAINED CADRE OF SUPER-POWERED BEINGS, RESPONSIBLE TO THE WHITE HOUSE. NO MORE OF THE CONFLICTS YOU PERIODICALLY ENCOUNTER WITH THE AVENGERS OR THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
THE *FREEDOM FORCE* WORKS FOR YOU-- AND, OF COURSE, THE PRESIDENT. WE'LL DO AS WE'RE TOLD.
TEMPTING.
FULL PARDON-- CONDITIONAL ON PERFORMANCE. IF A SINGLE MEMBER OF YOUR GROUP BREAKS OUR AGREEMENT, YOU *ALL* HANG.
AND BEFORE I PITCH THIS TO THE PRESIDENT, I WANT PROOF YOU'RE WORTH THE INVESTMENT. A TRIAL RUN, A TRIAL FOE-- IF YOU'RE SUCCESSFUL, WE HAVE A DEAL.
YOU'RE TO LOCATE AND CAPTURE THE FOUNDER OF THE ORIGINAL BROTHERHOOD, THE *MASTER OF MAGNETISM:*
...MAGNETO!

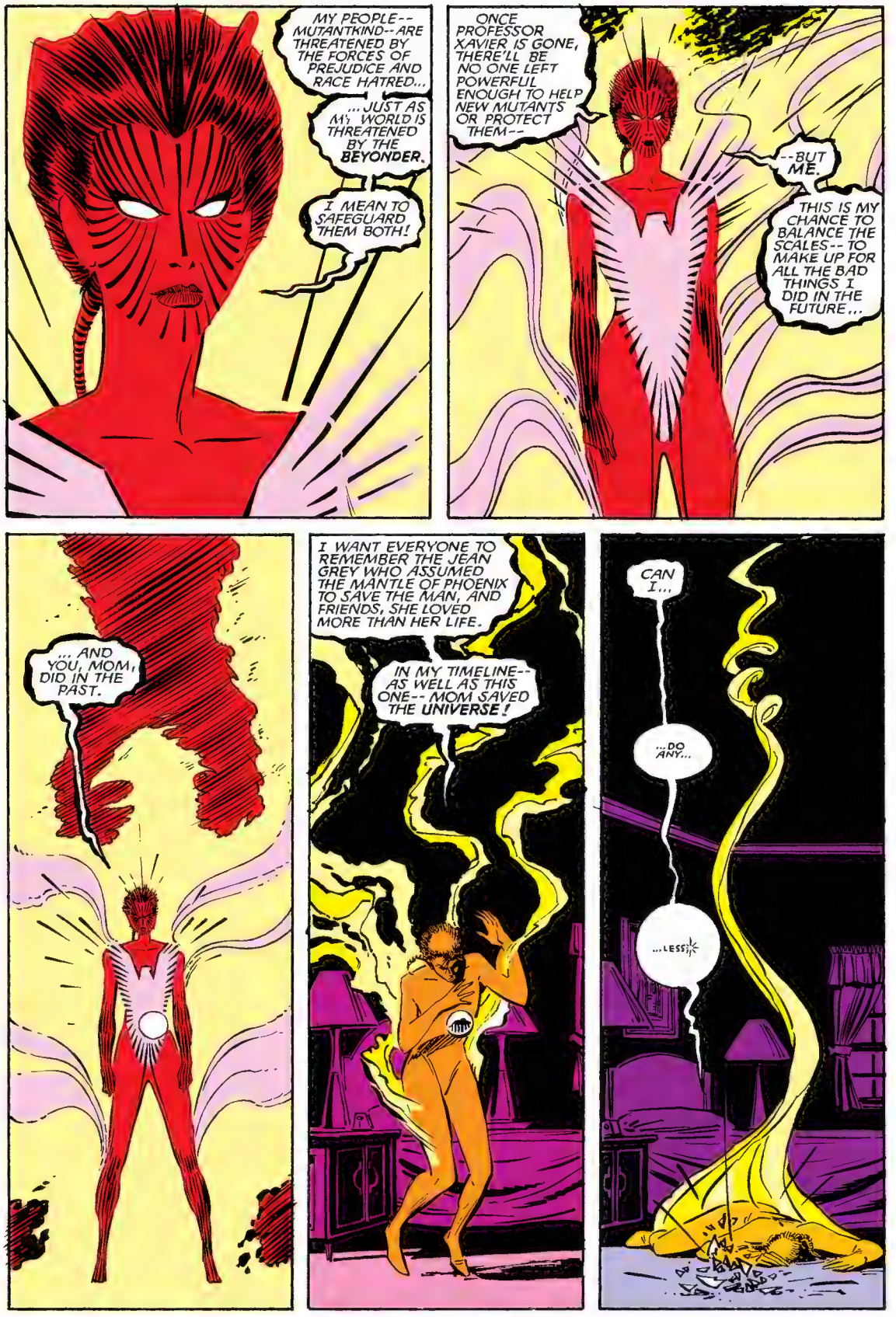

THE CEMETERY...
...OF ST. STEPHEN'S CHAPEL, BARD COLLEGE--ROUGHLY TWO HOURS UP THE HUDSON RIVER FROM NEW YORK CITY.
EARL GREY
HI, MOM.
IT'S RACHEL.
I'VE COME HOME.
I'M SORRY I NEVER VISITED BEFORE NOW. I WAS SCARED. STILL AM.
I MISS YOU SO MUCH! I WISH YOU WERE HERE. WITH ME. ALIVE!
THIS IS THE HOUSE WHERE I WAS BORN--AND THERE GO GRANDPA AND GRANDMA--THE PEOPLE I LOVED BEST NEXT TO YOU AND DAD, AND THE X-MEN.
I SAW THEM DIE, TOO--IN THE ANTI-MUTANT RIOTS.
I COULD CALL OUT, BRING THEM BACK, TELL THEM WHO I AM. I'M A TELEPATH, I CAN EASILY REACH THEM WITH MY THOUGHTS.
BUT I WON'T. I... CAN'T.
THIS ISN'T MY HOME, REALLY. YOU AREN'T MY FAMILY.
I'M A STRANGER.
IN MY WORLD, MY TIMELINE, MY MEMORIES--JEAN GREY LIVED!
BUT IN YOURS--
I'M SORRY, JOHN.

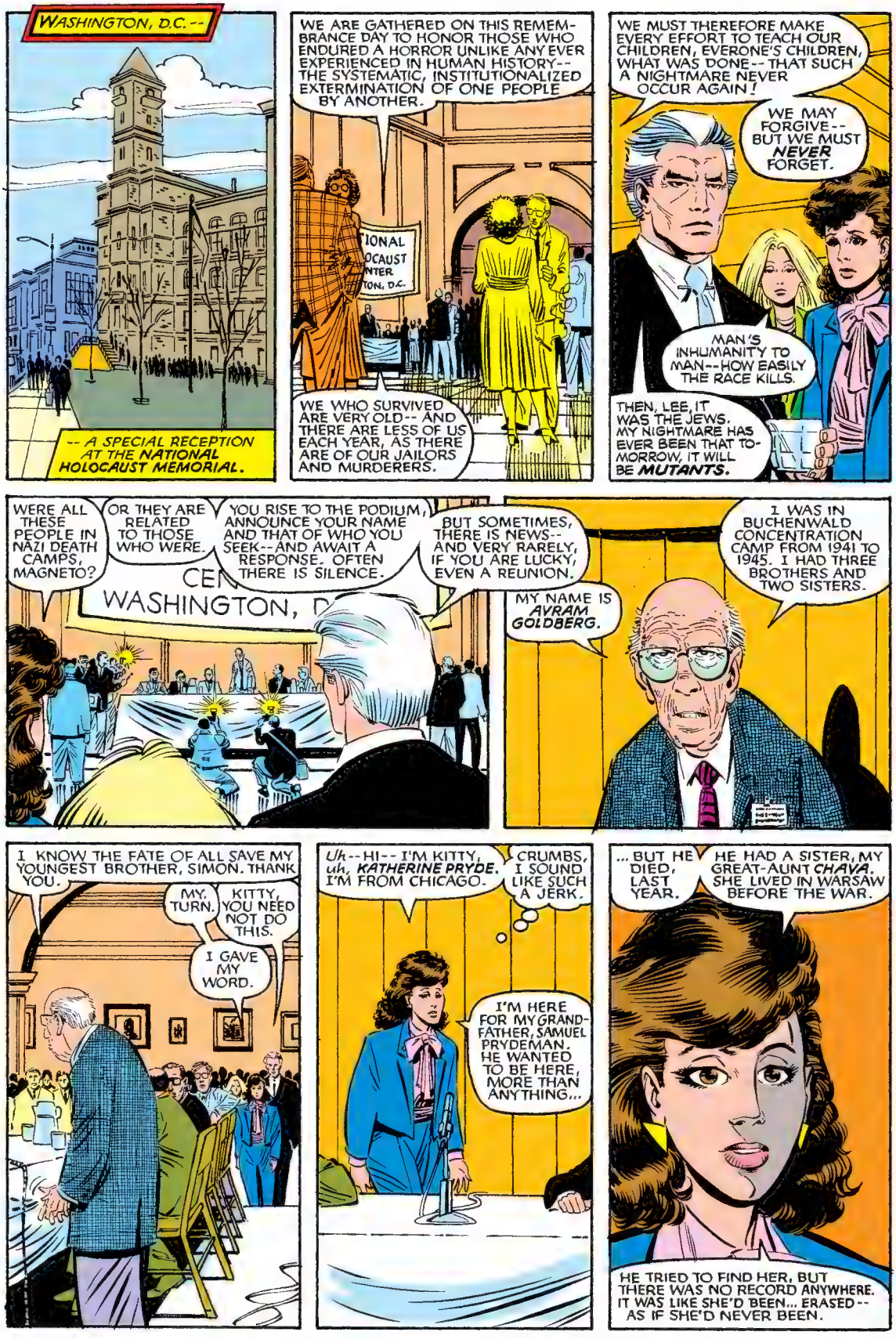

I WOULD GIVE ANYTHING NOT TO BE THE BEARER OF SUCH TIDINGS.
I KNOW IT'S SMALL CONSOLATION BUT JEAN SACRIFICED HERSELF THAT THE UNIVERSE--ALL CREATION--MIGHT LIVE.
TO SAVE THE X-MEN, MOM BECAME PHOENIX--BUT THE POWER WAS MORE THAN SHE COULD HANDLE, IT GOT OUT OF CONTROL.
THAT PART'S THE SAME IN BOTH HISTORIES.
THE CHILD OF LIGHT BECAME ONE OF DARKNESS.
YOU FEAR ME, ALL OF YOU, AND WITH GOOD REASON! WHAT I DO TO THIS PLANT...
...I CAN JUST AS EASILY DO TO YOU.
GOOD GRIEF!
SHE--SHE TURNED IT TO CRYSTAL!
WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT ARE YOU?!
I AM THAT I AM.
I WAS YOUR DAUGHTER.
NO!
YOU'RE NOT MINE--NOT ANY PART OF ME!
I DENY YOU! I CAST YOU OUT!
GRANDPA, DON'T!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHEN YOU'RE A TELEPATH, YOU SEE THINGS IN PEOPLES' MINDS--
-- EVEN THOSE YOU LOVE-- THAT HURT.
MOM WAS SO POWERFUL AS DARK PHOENIX SHE COULDN'T SHUT THAT OUT!
SHE WAS HURT TO HER SOUL, SO MUCH SO THAT SHE HAD TO HURT BACK.
HOW COME YOU LOVED HER ENOUGH TO SEE THAT IN MY WORLD, BUT NOT IN THIS ONE?!
Oh, no.
STOP IT. GO AWAY. LEAVE ME ALONE--


--I DON'T WANT TO SEE THIS!
BUT THESE ARE MEMORIES--
--WHEREAS WHAT CAME BEFORE WERE MERELY FANTASY VISIONS DERIVED FROM WHAT RACHEL READ IN THE X-MEN'S "DARK PHOENIX" FILE--
-- MEMORIES WILL NOT BE DENIED.
MOTHERHOOD BECOMES YOU, SWEETHEART.
IT BETTER, I DO ALL THE WORK!
WHY SO PENSIVE, SCOTT?
THE WORLD, I GUESS. MUTANTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OUTCASTS, BUT I NEVER DREAMED THINGS WOULD EVER GET THIS BAD. SOME REALLY GRIM BILLS ARE BEING DEBATED IN CONGRESS-- THEY MAY ACTUALLY BE PASSED, JEAN, AND SIGNED INTO LAW!
NOT THE NICEST-- OR SAFEST--TIME TO START A NEW LIFE.
IT NEVER IS.
Ohhh, RACHEL-- I WANT SO FOR YOU TO BE HAPPY.
I WAS, MOM. THEN.
IN YOUR EYES, BABY...
... I SEE INFINITE POSSIBILITIES. A SECOND CHANCE. YOU'RE ALL THE HOPE THERE IS, YOUNG LADY, PROMISE AS YET UNFULFILLED.
BE TRUE TO MY FAITH, RACHEL. MAKE ME PROUD...
I TRIED, MOMMY.
BUT I WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH.
NOT LIKE YOU. YOU WERE SO BRAVE!
YOU FOUGHT.
I...
... I GAVE IN.

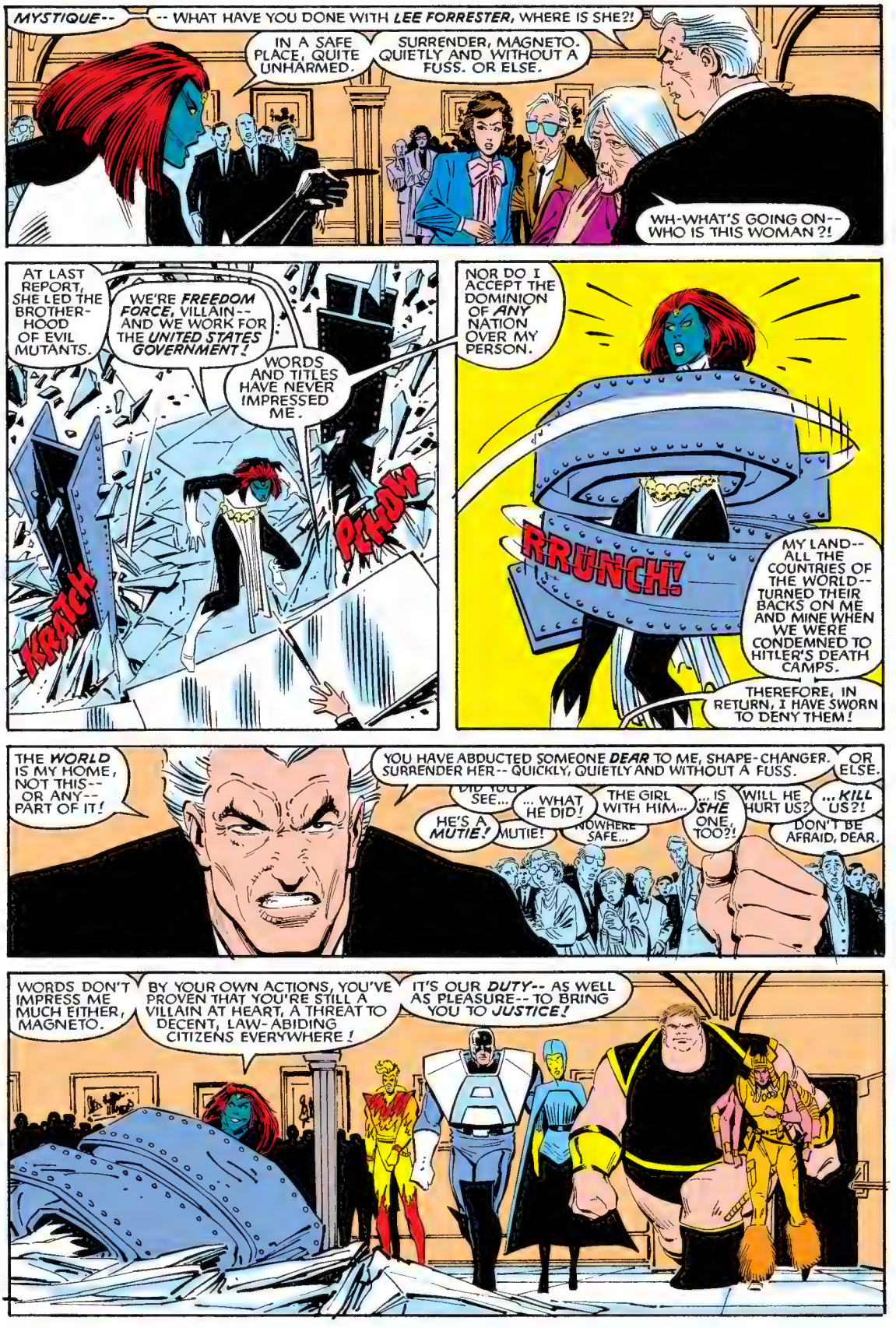

HOUND--
--HEEL!
NO!
NO!
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN, RED--
--STOP TRYING TO ACT LIKE ONE.
DON'T HIT-- PLEASE! DON'T HURT!!
WHEN I GIVE A COMMAND, MUTIE-- OBEY!
THEY SENT ME TO TRACK DOWN MUTANTS-- MY OWN KIND-- SO THEY COULD KILL THEM.
AND I DID.
I WAS THE BEST.
THIS IS THE HOLEMPATHIC MATRIX CRYSTAL-- IMBUED WITH THE ESSENCE OF JEAN GREY'S PERSONALITY.
NOT MY MOM-- BUT REAL, REAL CLOSE.
Ohhhhh...
... I SENSE THOUGHTS-- EMOTIONS-- BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, HER PRESENCE...
... AS IF SHE WAS ACTUALLY HERE!
CAN YOU SEE ME, MOMMY?
WHAT I AM...
... ALL I'VE DONE?!
FORGIVE ME-- FOR THE LIVES, THE HOPE I LOST, THE PROMISE I BETRAYED.

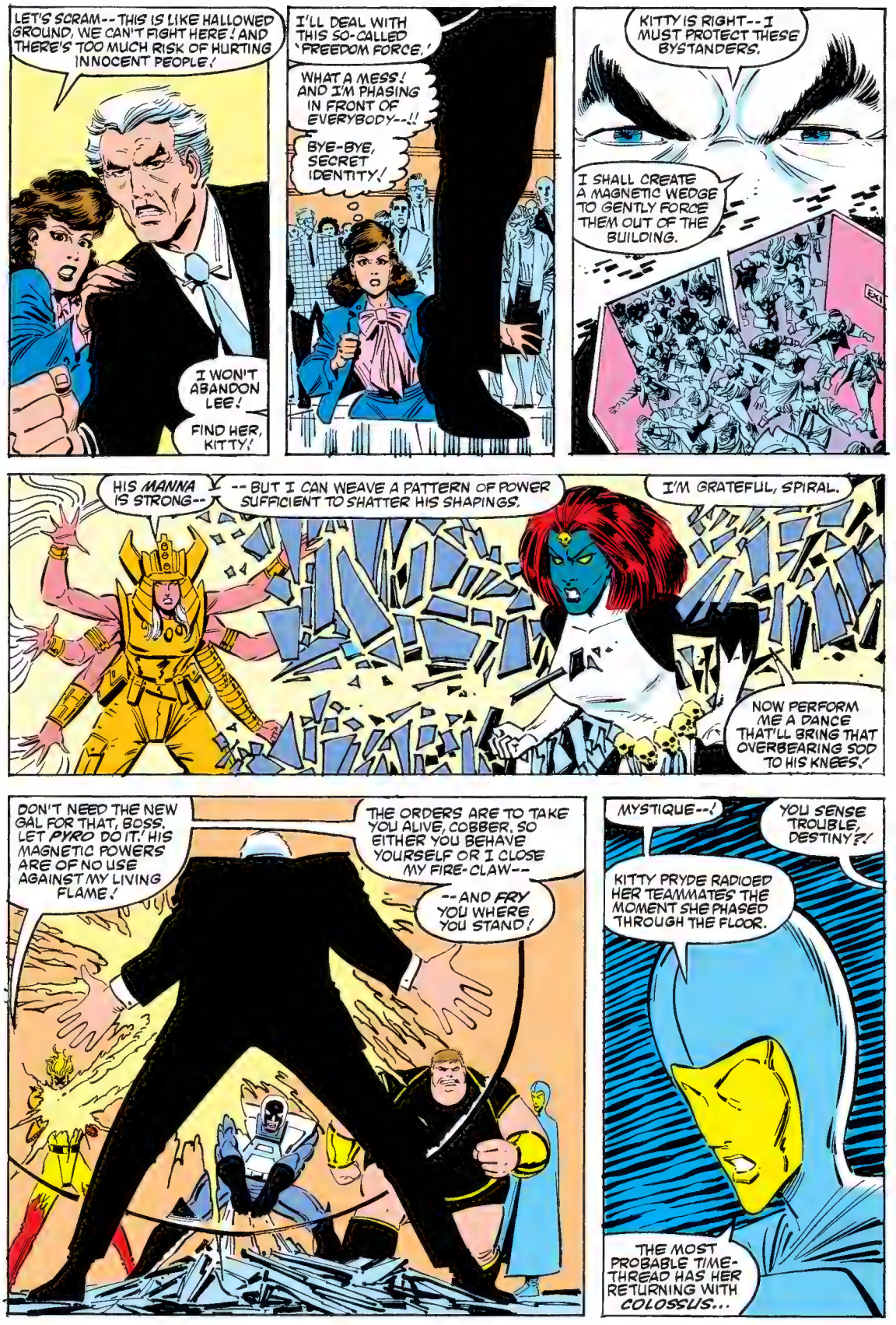

THEY CALL YOU THE CHAOS-BRINGER.
THEY SAY PHOENIX WAS EVIL--
--THAT YOUR POWER WAS TOO TERRIBLE TO BE CONTROLLED-- AND YOUR HUMAN SPIRIT TOO WEAK TO WITHSTAND ITS TEMPTATION.
I SAY THAT'S WRONG! I'M YOUR DAUGHTER-- FIRST-BORN AND ONLY CHILD--
--AND I CLAIM THE POWER AND THE NAME OF PHOENIX...
...THAT ARE MINE BY RIGHT!


MY PEOPLE-- MUTANTKIND-- ARE THREATENED BY THE FORCES OF PREJUDICE AND RACE HATRED...
...JUST AS M'; WORLD IS THREATENED BY THE BEYONDER.
I MEAN TO SAFEGUARD THEM BOTH!
ONCE PROFESSOR XAVIER IS GONE, THERE'LL BE NO ONE LEFT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO HELP NEW MUTANTS OR PROTECT THEM--
--BUT ME.
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO BALANCE THE SCALES-- TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE BAD THINGS I DID IN THE FUTURE...
... AND YOU, MOM, DID IN THE PAST.
I WANT EVERYONE TO REMEMBER THE JEAN GREY WHO ASSUMED THE MANTLE OF PHOENIX TO SAVE THE MAN, AND FRIENDS, SHE LOVED MORE THAN HER LIFE.
IN MY TIMELINE-- AS WELL AS THIS ONE-- MOM SAVED THE UNIVERSE!
CAN I...
...DO ANY...
...LESS!

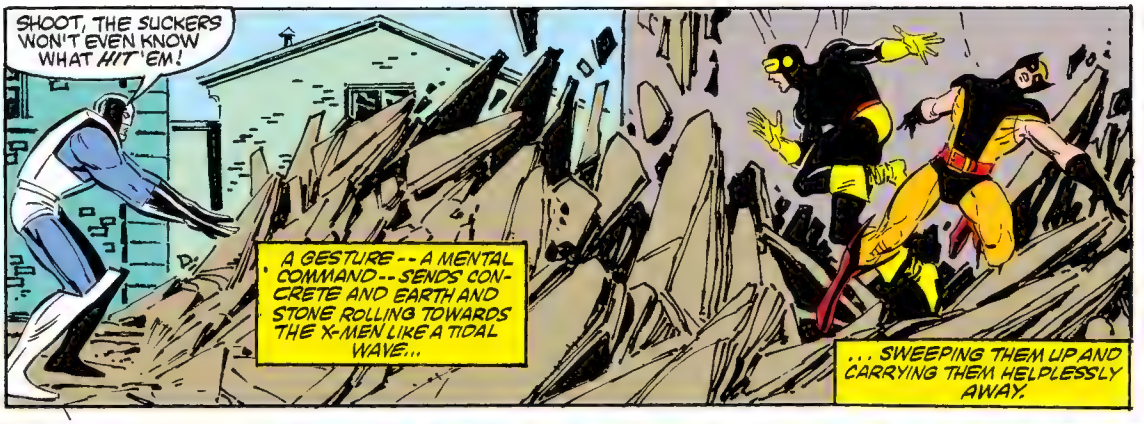

WASHINGTON, D.C. --
-- A SPECIAL RECEPTION AT THE NATIONAL HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL.
WE ARE GATHERED ON THIS REMEMBRANCE DAY TO HONOR THOSE WHO ENDURED A HORROR UNLIKE ANY EVER EXPERIENCED IN HUMAN HISTORY-- THE SYSTEMATIC, INSTITUTIONALIZED EXTERMINATION OF ONE PEOPLE BY ANOTHER.
WE WHO SURVIVED ARE VERY OLD-- AND THERE ARE LESS OF US EACH YEAR, AS THERE ARE OF OUR JAILORS AND MURDERERS.
WE MUST THEREFORE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN, EVERONE'S CHILDREN, WHAT WAS DONE-- THAT SUCH A NIGHTMARE NEVER OCCUR AGAIN!
WE MAY FORGIVE-- BUT WE MUST NEVER FORGET.
MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN--HOW EASILY THE RACE KILLS.
THEN, LEE, IT WAS THE JEWS. MY NIGHTMARE HAS EVER BEEN THAT TOMORROW, IT WILL BE MUTANTS.
WERE ALL THESE PEOPLE IN NAZI DEATH CAMPS, MAGNETO?
OR THEY ARE RELATED TO THOSE WHO WERE.
YOU RISE TO THE PODIUM, ANNOUNCE YOUR NAME AND THAT OF WHO YOU SEEK--AND AWAIT A RESPONSE. OFTEN THERE IS SILENCE.
BUT SOMETIMES, THERE IS NEWS-- AND VERY RARELY, IF YOU ARE LUCKY, EVEN A REUNION.
WASHINGTON, D
MY NAME IS AVRAM GOLDBERG.
I WAS IN BUCHENWALD CONCENTRATION CAMP FROM 1941 TO 1945. I HAD THREE BROTHERS AND TWO SISTERS.
I KNOW THE FATE OF ALL SAVE MY YOUNGEST BROTHER, SIMON. THANK YOU.
MY. TURN.
KITTY, YOU NEED NOT DO THIS.
I GAVE MY WORD.
Uh-- HI-- I'M KITTY, uh, KATHERINE PRYDE. I'M FROM CHICAGO.
CRUMBS, I SOUND LIKE SUCH A JERK.
I'M HERE FOR MY GRANDFATHER, SAMUEL PRYDEMAN. HE WANTED TO BE HERE, MORE THAN ANYTHING...
... BUT HE DIED, LAST YEAR.
HE HAD A SISTER, MY GREAT-AUNT CHAVA. SHE LIVED IN WARSAW BEFORE THE WAR.
HE TRIED TO FIND HER, BUT THERE WAS NO RECORD ANYWHERE. IT WAS LIKE SHE'D BEEN... ERASED-- AS IF SHE'D NEVER BEEN.

HAVE YOU A PHOTOGRAPH OF HER?
Uh-uh -- SHE WAS JUST A KID WHEN GRANDPA EMIGRATED TO THE STATES.
WHY DO YOU ASK?
I KNEW A WOMAN NAMED CHAVA, IN AUSCHWITZ. BUT HER LAST NAME WAS ROSANOFF.
I DON'T BELIEVE MY EYES -- IT IS YOU!
MY DEAR FRIEND, IT HAS BEEN SO LONG -- TOO LONG -- HOW ARE YOU?!
RUTH?!? DAVID!?!
I'M DAVID SHULMAN.
MY WIFE AND I KNEW YOUR AUNT, CHILD -- CHAVA SPOKE OFTEN OF HER BROTHER IN AMERICA. ROSANOFF WAS HER MARRIED NAME.
WE WERE IN THE RESISTANCE. AFTER THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING, WE WERE SENT TO AUSCHWITZ.
SHE DIED THERE.
WE WOULD HAVE, TOO, IF NOT FOR THIS SCOUNDREL. HE'D BEEN AT THAT ACCURSED PLACE FROM THE VERY START. HE SAVED MANY OF US.
NOT ENOUGH, RUTH.
YOU TRIED, MY FRIEND. YOU GAVE US THE COURAGE AND STRENGTH TO ENDURE.
YOU WERE A HERO?
HARDLY. IN THOSE DAYS, HEROISM MEANT HOLDING ONTO ONE'S HUMANITY, WHILE THE NAZIS TRIED THEIR BEST TO TURN US INTO ANIMALS. THE WAY TO DEFY THEM -- TO DEFEAT THEM -- WAS TO LIE, TO HOLD ONTO HOPE, NO MATTER WHAT.
BELIEVE ME, KITTY, I WAS NO ONE SPECIAL. IF I AM A HERO, THEN SO IS EVERY OTHER MAN AND WOMAN WHO SURVIVED.
AND WHAT, PRAY TELL, WOULD YOUR DOTING ADMIRERS SAY, MAGNETO, IF THEY KNEW THE TRUTH --
"LEE -- ?!?"
-- THAT YOU'VE BECOME ONE OF THE MOST FEARED CRIMINALS ON THE EARTH...
... A MAN AS CRUEL AND HEARTLESS AND FULL OF HATE AS ANY NAZI EVER BORN?!!

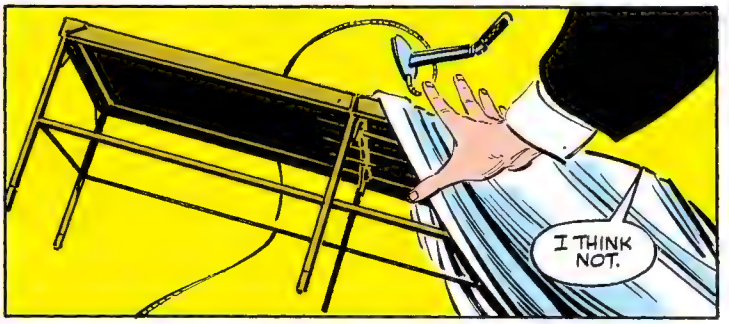

MYSTIQUE--
-- WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH LEE FORRESTER, WHERE IS SHE?!
IN A SAFE PLACE, QUITE UNHARMED.
SURRENDER, MAGNETO. QUIETLY AND WITHOUT A FUSS. OR ELSE.
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON-- WHO IS THIS WOMAN?!
AT LAST REPORT, SHE LED THE BROTHER-HOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS.
WE'RE FREEDOM FORCE, VILLAIN-- AND WE WORK FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT!
WORDS AND TITLES HAVE NEVER IMPRESSED ME.
KRATCH
PTHOW
NOR DO I ACCEPT THE DOMINION OF ANY NATION OVER MY PERSON.
RRUNCH!
MY LAND-- ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD-- TURNED THEIR BACKS ON ME AND MINE WHEN WE WERE CONDEMNED TO HITLER'S DEATH CAMPS.
THEREFORE, IN RETURN, I HAVE SWORN TO DENY THEM!
THE WORLD IS MY HOME, NOT THIS-- OR ANY-- PART OF IT!
YOU HAVE ABDUCTED SOMEONE DEAR TO ME, SHAPE-CHANGER. SURRENDER HER-- QUICKLY, QUIETLY AND WITHOUT A FUSS.
OR ELSE.
DID YOU SEE...
... WHAT HE DID!
THE GIRL WITH HIM...
... IS SHE ONE, TOO?!
WILL HE HURT US?
... KILL US?!
HE'S A MUTIE!
MUTIE!
NOWHERE SAFE...
DON'T BE AFRAID, DEAR.
WORDS DON'T IMPRESS ME MUCH EITHER, MAGNETO.
BY YOUR OWN ACTIONS, YOU'VE PROVEN THAT YOU'RE STILL A VILLAIN AT HEART, A THREAT TO DECENT, LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS EVERYWHERE!
IT'S OUR DUTY-- AS WELL AS PLEASURE-- TO BRING YOU TO JUSTICE!

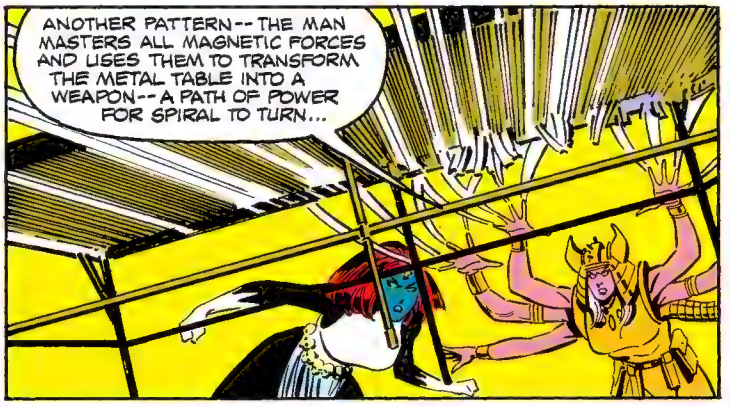

LET'S SCRAM--THIS IS LIKE HALLOWED GROUND, WE CAN'T FIGHT HERE! AND THERE'S TOO MUCH RISK OF HURTING INNOCENT PEOPLE!
I WON'T ABANDON LEE!
FIND HER, KITTY!
I'LL DEAL WITH THIS SO-CALLED 'FREEDOM FORCE.'
WHAT A MESS! AND I'M PHASING IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY--!!
BYE-BYE, SECRET IDENTITY!
KITTY IS RIGHT--I MUST PROTECT THESE BYSTANDERS.
I SHALL CREATE A MAGNETIC WEDGE TO GENTLY FORCE THEM OUT OF THE BUILDING.
EXIT
HIS MANNA IS STRONG--
--BUT I CAN WEAVE A PATTERN OF POWER SUFFICIENT TO SHATTER HIS SHAPINGS.
I'M GRATEFUL, SPIRAL.
NOW PERFORM ME A DANCE THAT'LL BRING THAT OVERBEARING SOD TO HIS KNEES!
DON'T NEED THE NEW GAL FOR THAT, BOSS. LET PYRO DO IT! HIS MAGNETIC POWERS ARE OF NO USE AGAINST MY LIVING FLAME!
THE ORDERS ARE TO TAKE YOU ALIVE, COBBER, SO EITHER YOU BEHAVE YOURSELF OR I CLOSE MY FIRE-CLAW--
--AND FRY YOU WHERE YOU STAND!
MYSTIQUE--!
YOU SENSE TROUBLE, DESTINY?!
KITTY PRYDE RADIOED HER TEAMMATES THE MOMENT SHE PHASED THROUGH THE FLOOR.
THE MOST PROBABLE TIME-THREAD HAS HER RETURNING WITH COLOSSUS...

...THROUGH THE SOUTH WALL.
YOU CALLED IT, BABE--RIGHT ONNA MONEY!
COLOSSUS--WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME PHASE YOU INSIDE?!
WE DON'T WANT TO WRECK THE MEMORIAL!!
I'M ON 'EM, BOSS-LADY!
IT'S A REAL TREAT, WORKIN' WITH SOMEBODY WHO CAN TELL THE FUTURE--
--MAKES LIFE SO MUCH EASIER, Y'KNOW?
SHADOWCAT--LOOK OUT!
I'M OKAY, PARTNER. AS LONG AS I PHASE, I'M IN NO DANGER.
PYRO--STOP! YOU'LL SET THE BUILDING ON FIRE!!
BLOB--BE READY FOR NIGHTCRAWLER.
GOTCHA, FURBALL!
YOU EVEN TWITCH, LITTLE MAN, I'LL TWIST YOUR HEAD CLEAN OFF!
OWHHWR!!
CHOKE-HOLD CRUSHING ME--HARD TO CONCENTRATE CAN HARDLY BREATHE--!
AVALANCHE--CYCLOPS AND WOLVERINE APPROACH ACROSS THE COURTYARD.
NO PROBLEM, DEE--THEY WON'T GET PAST ME.


SHOOT, THE SUCKERS WON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HIT 'EM!
A GESTURE -- A MENTAL COMMAND -- SENDS CONCRETE AND EARTH AND STONE ROLLING TOWARDS THE X-MEN LIKE A TIDAL WAVE...
... SWEEPING THEM UP AND CARRYING THEM HELPLESSLY AWAY.

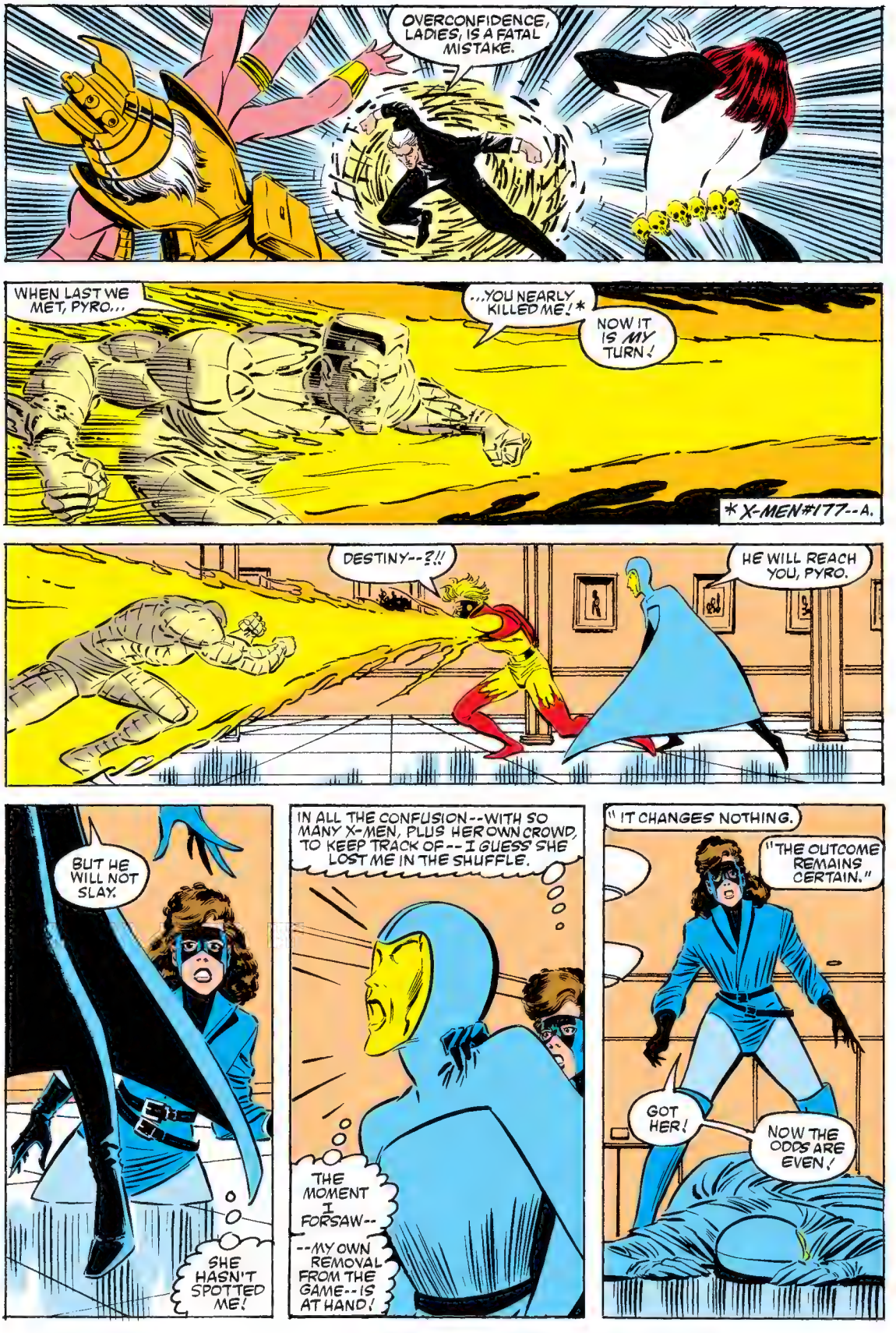
AND WHAT DOES YOUR PRECOGNITIVE COMRADE SAY THE FUTURE HOLDS IN STORE FOR ME, WOMAN?
YOU'LL LOSE, OF COURSE.

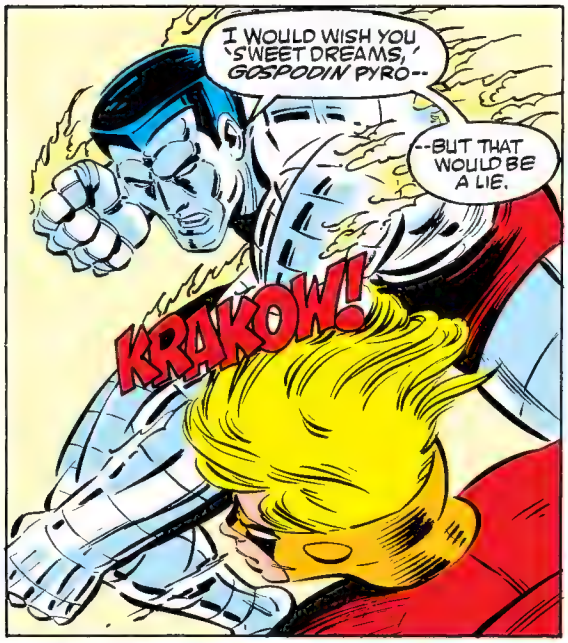

I THINK NOT.

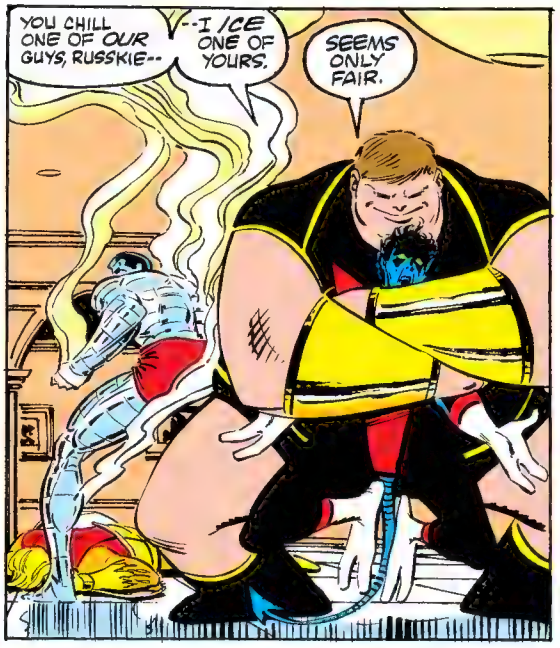

ANOTHER PATTERN -- THE MAN MASTERS ALL MAGNETIC FORCES AND USES THEM TO TRANSFORM THE METAL TABLE INTO A WEAPON -- A PATH OF POWER FOR SPIRAL TO TURN...

...BACK UPON ITSELF.
THE FATE YOU HAD IN STORE FOR US, MAGNETO, HAS BECOME YOURS INSTEAD.
AN AMUSING BAND, THIS -- GLAD I AM I JOINED THEM. THEY'RE PROVING A MOST EFFICIENT -- AND ENTERTAINING -- MEANS OF LEARNING ABOUT THIS ORB AND ITS INHABITANTS WHILE I WAIT FOR THE PROPER CONFLUENCE OF ASTRAL FORCES...

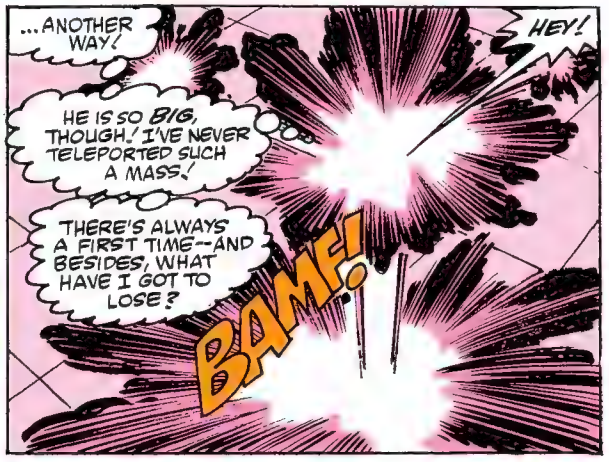
...TO ENABLE ME TO REJOIN MOJO...
... AND CONTINUE OUR HUNT FOR THE RUNAWAY!*
*SHE MEANS LONGSHOT -- AND THE OUTCOME OF THAT QUEST CAN BE FOUND IN THE LIMITED-SERIES OF THE SAME NAME, ON SALE NOW -- ANN.

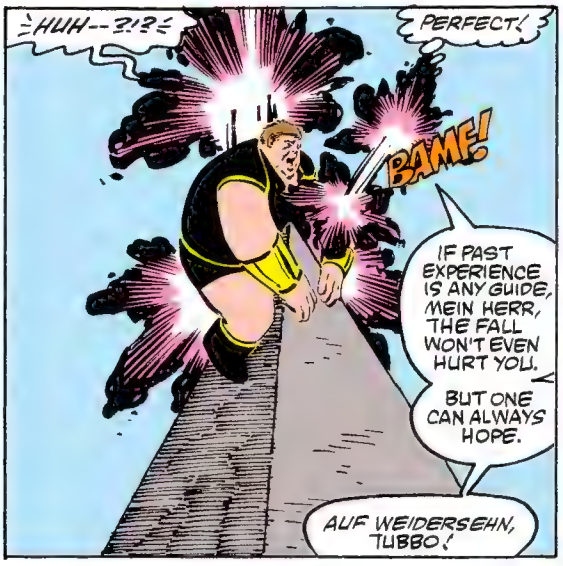

OVERCONFIDENCE, LADIES, IS A FATAL MISTAKE.
WHEN LAST WE MET, PYRO...
...YOU NEARLY KILLED ME!*
NOW IT IS MY TURN!
*X-MEN#177--A.
DESTINY--?!!
HE WILL REACH YOU, PYRO.
BUT HE WILL NOT SLAY.
SHE HASN'T SPOTTED ME!
IN ALL THE CONFUSION--WITH SO MANY X-MEN, PLUS HER OWN CROWD, TO KEEP TRACK OF--I GUESS SHE LOST ME IN THE SHUFFLE.
THE MOMENT I FORSAW--
--MY OWN REMOVAL FROM THE GAME--IS AT HAND!
"IT CHANGES NOTHING.
"THE OUTCOME REMAINS CERTAIN."
GOT HER!
NOW THE ODDS ARE EVEN!

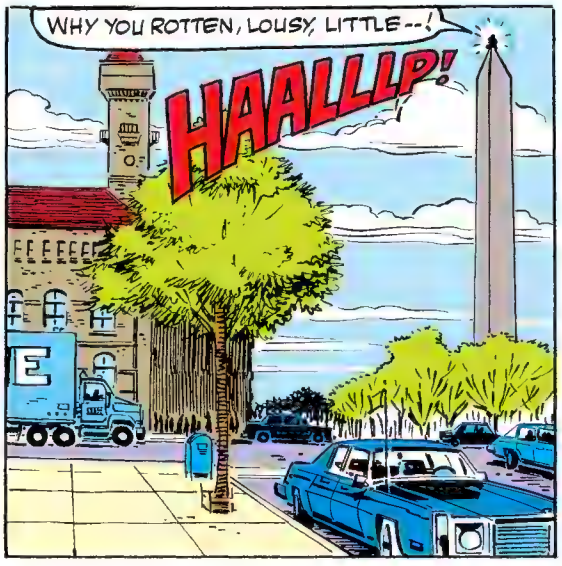

I WOULD WISH YOU 'SWEET DREAMS,' GOSPODIN PYRO--
--BUT THAT WOULD BE A LIE.
KRAKOW!

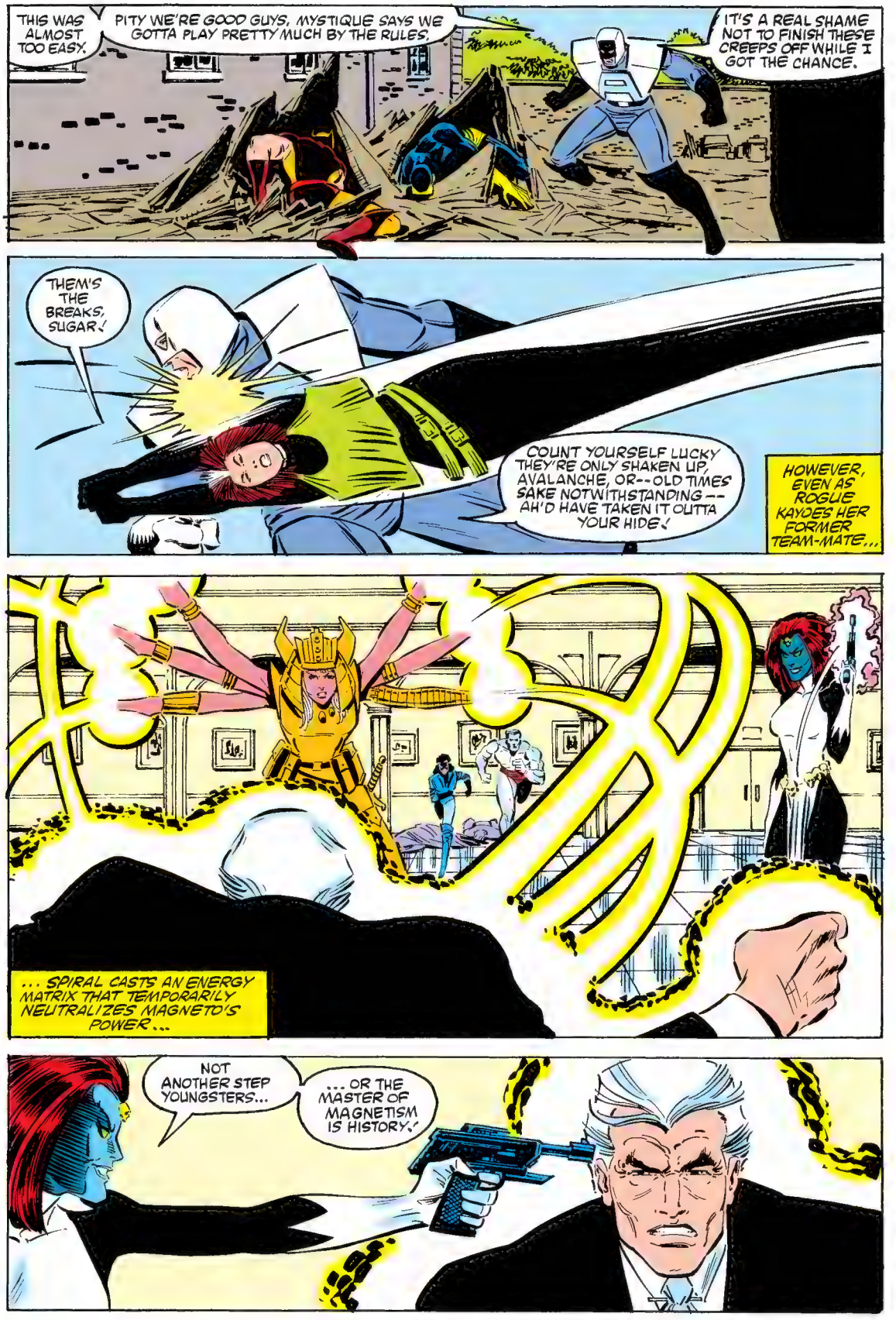

YOU CHILL ONE OF OUR GUYS, RUSSKIE--
--I ICE ONE OF YOURS.
SEEMS ONLY FAIR.

SAY 'G'BYE, NIGHT-CRAWLER!
BLOB... MEANS TO... BREAK MY NECK!
CANNOT MATCH... HIS... STRENGTH-- BUT PERHAPS... I CAN FIND...


...ANOTHER WAY!
HEY!
HE IS SO BIG, THOUGH! I'VE NEVER TELEPORTED SUCH A MASS!
THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME--AND BESIDES, WHAT HAVE I GOT TO LOSE?
BAMF!


HUH--?!?
PERFECT!
BAMF!
IF PAST EXPERIENCE IS ANY GUIDE, MEIN HERR, THE FALL WON'T EVEN HURT YOU.
BUT ONE CAN ALWAYS HOPE.
AUF WEIDERSEHN, TUBBO!


WHY YOU ROTTEN, LOUSY, LITTLE--!
HAALLLP!


THIS WAS ALMOST TOO EASY.
PITY WE'RE GOOD GUYS, MYSTIQUE SAYS WE GOTTA PLAY PRETTY MUCH BY THE RULES.
IT'S A REAL SHAME NOT TO FINISH THESE CREEPS OFF WHILE I GOT THE CHANCE.
THEM'S THE BREAKS, SUGAR!
COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY THEY'RE ONLY SHAKEN UP, AVALANCHE, OR--OLD TIMES SAKE NOTWITHSTANDING--AH'D HAVE TAKEN IT OUTTA YOUR HIDE!
HOWEVER, EVEN AS ROGUE KAYOES HER FORMER TEAM-MATE...
... SPIRAL CASTS AN ENERGY MATRIX THAT TEMPORARILY NEUTRALIZES MAGNETO'S POWER...
NOT ANOTHER STEP YOUNGSTERS...
... OR THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM IS HISTORY!

BUT THEN...
ZAP!
SPIRAL!
SHE'S ONLY STUNNED.
DROP THE GUN, SWEETHEART--OR YOU WON'T BE ANYWHERE NEAR AS FORTUNATE.
KEEP YOUR CLAWS SHEATHED, WOLVERINE. I GET THE MESSAGE.
I FOUND LEE! SHE'S ALL RIGHT, I GOT HER AWAY SAFELY!
FINE SHADOWCAT--LET'S FOLLOW HER EXAMPLE.
WE'LL LEAVE THE BROTHERHOOD FOR THE POLICE.
CYCLOPS, YOU CRETIN--WE ARE THE POLICE!
YOU'RE INTERFERING IN A LEGAL ARREST!
MY FRIENDS, I APPRECIATE ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME...
...BUT I CANNOT GO WITH YOU. I AM STAYING.
"THAT'S INSANE!"
PERHAPS CYCLOPS, BUT THAT IS MY DECISION NEVERTHELESS.
YOU DID NOT SEE THE FACES OF MY FRIENDS WHEN THEY SAW ME REVEAL MY POWERS. THEY WERE TERRIFIED--AS MY WIFE, MAGDA, WAS SO MANY YEARS AGO. MY POWERS SAVED OUR LIVES--YET SHE WAS MORE AFRAID OF THEM, AND ME, THAN OF THE SECRET POLICE BUTCHERS WHO MURDERED OUR DAUGHTER.
LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO THIS PLACE. THINK WHAT I HAVE DONE TO THE WORLD.
I ASK MYSELF, IS MYSTIQUE RIGHT?
HAVE I BECOME THE IMAGE OF THOSE I HATED?
GO. THIS IS SOMETHING I MUST DO ALONE.
I AM THROUGH RUNNING AND HIDING. FOR MY OWN SALVATION--AND THE GOOD OF MUTANTKIND--THE TIME HAS COME AT LAST TO TAKE A STAND...
...TO FACE MY ACCUSERS, AND MY FATE!
NEXT:
THE TRIAL OF MAGNETO!

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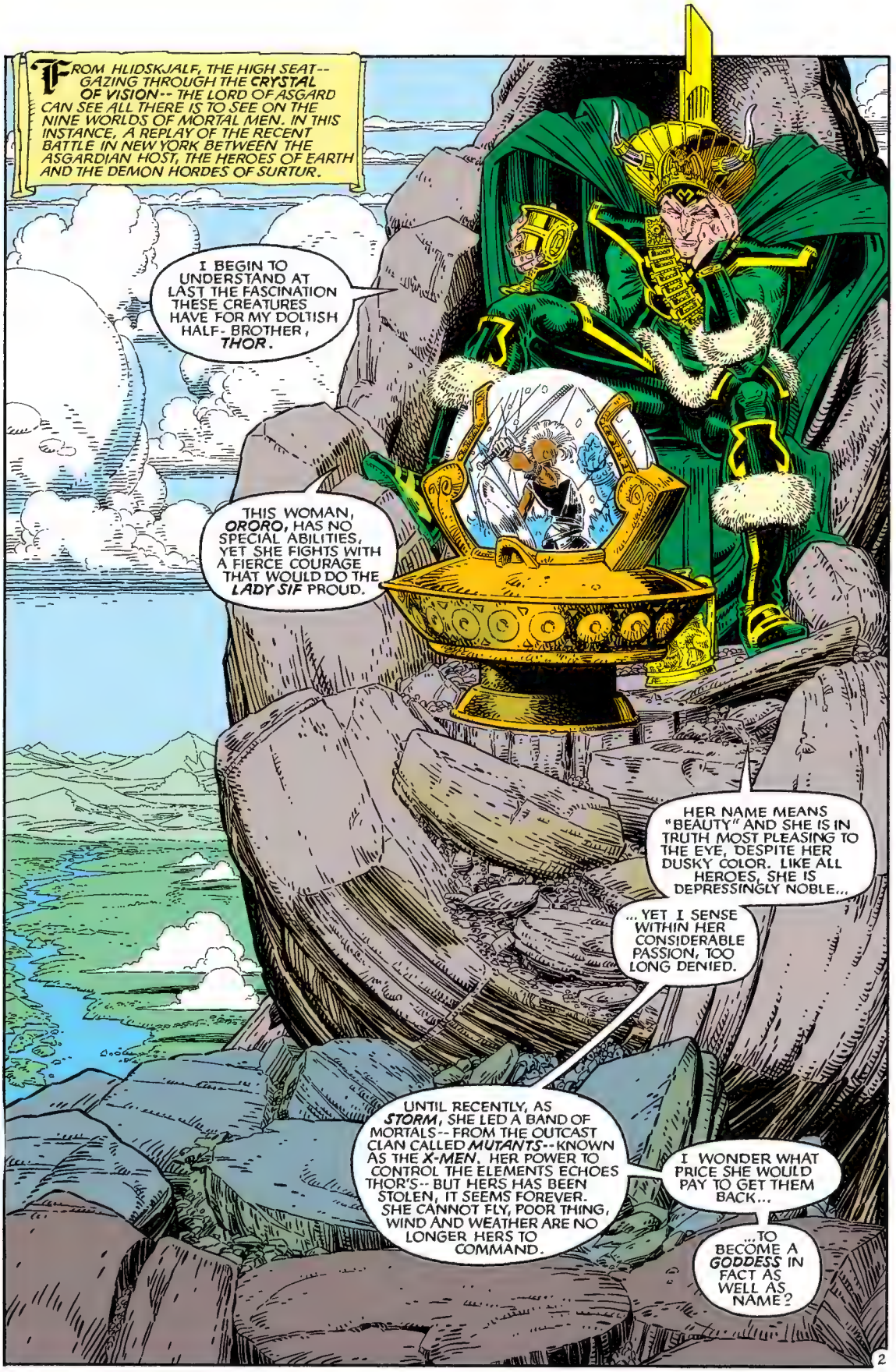
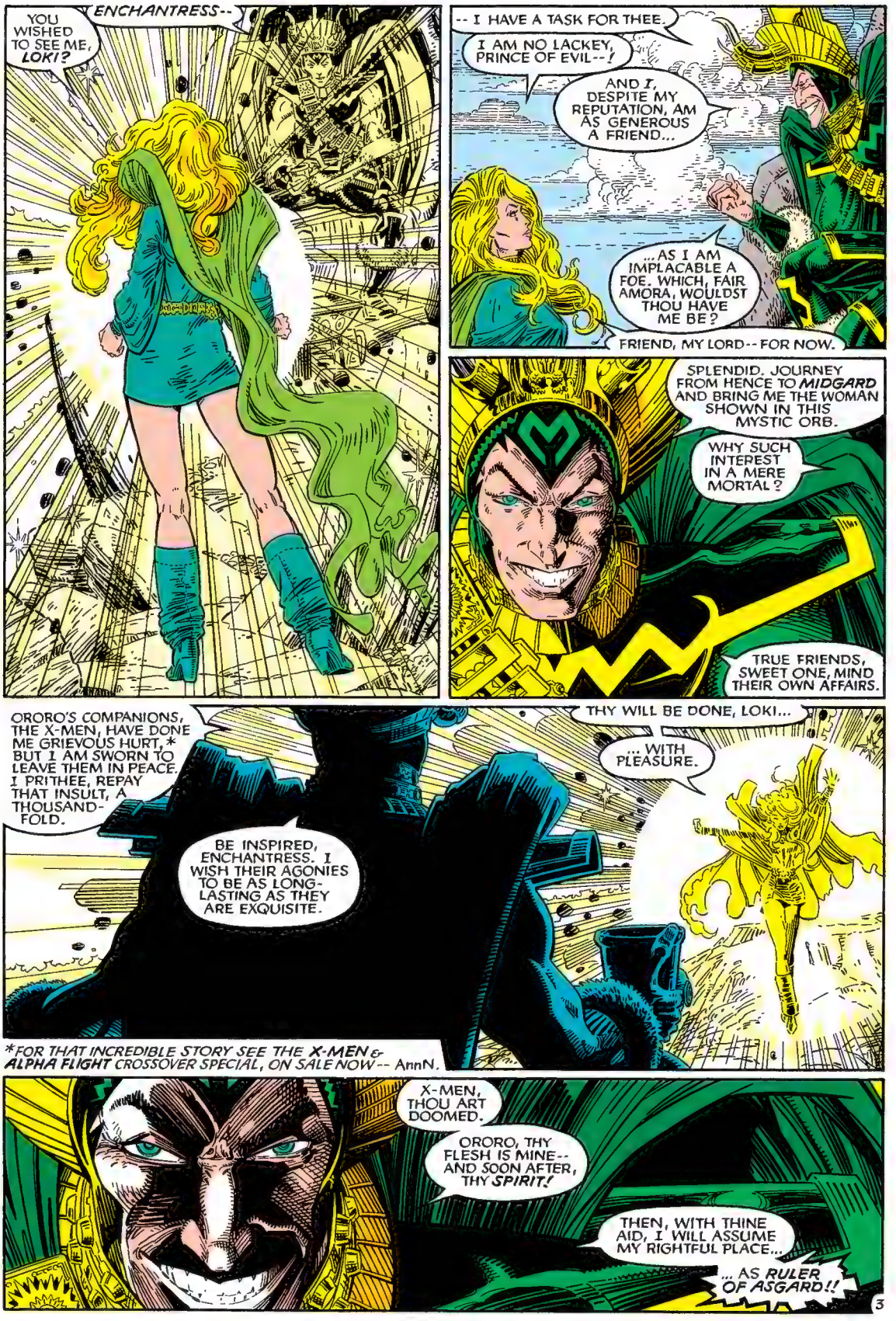
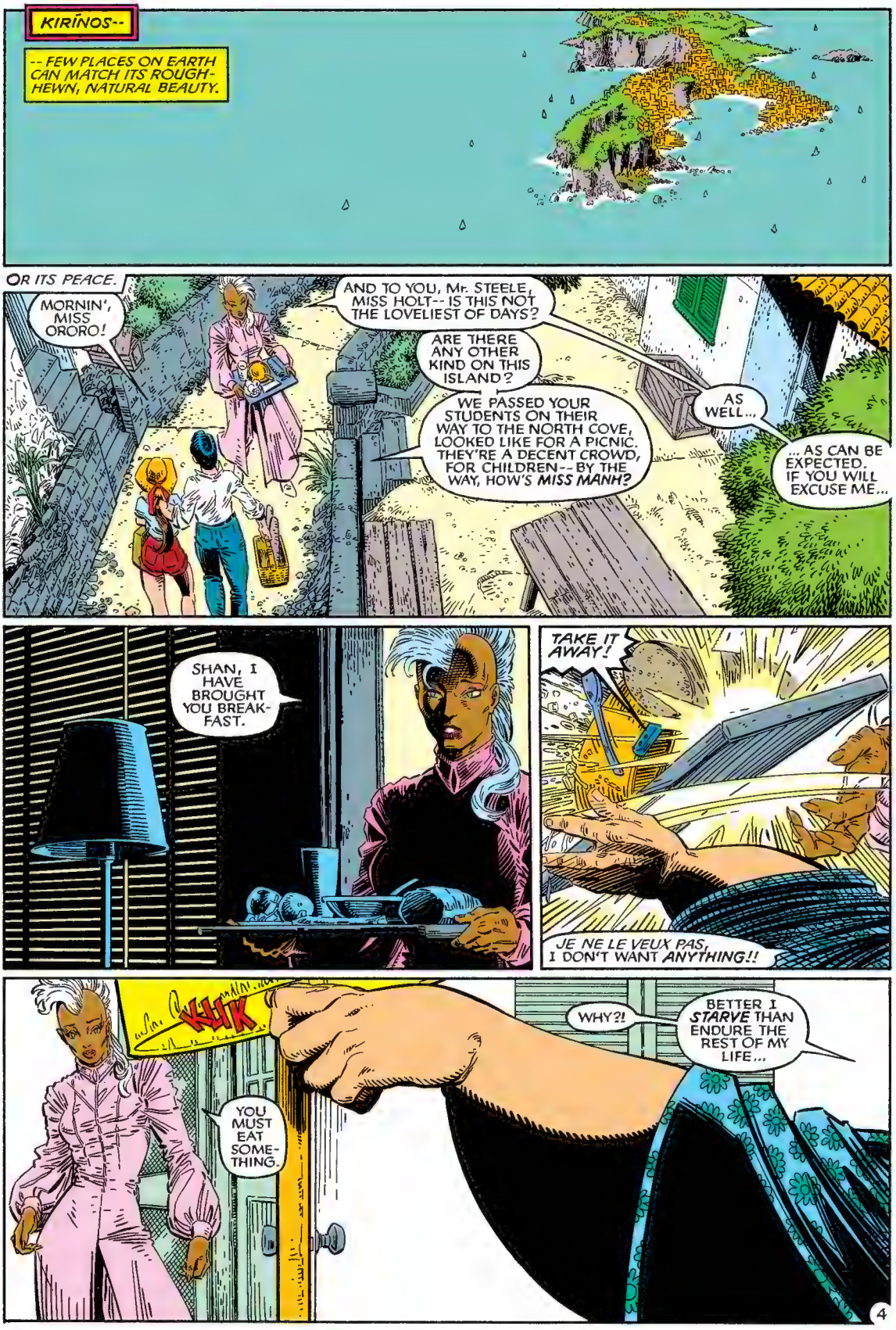
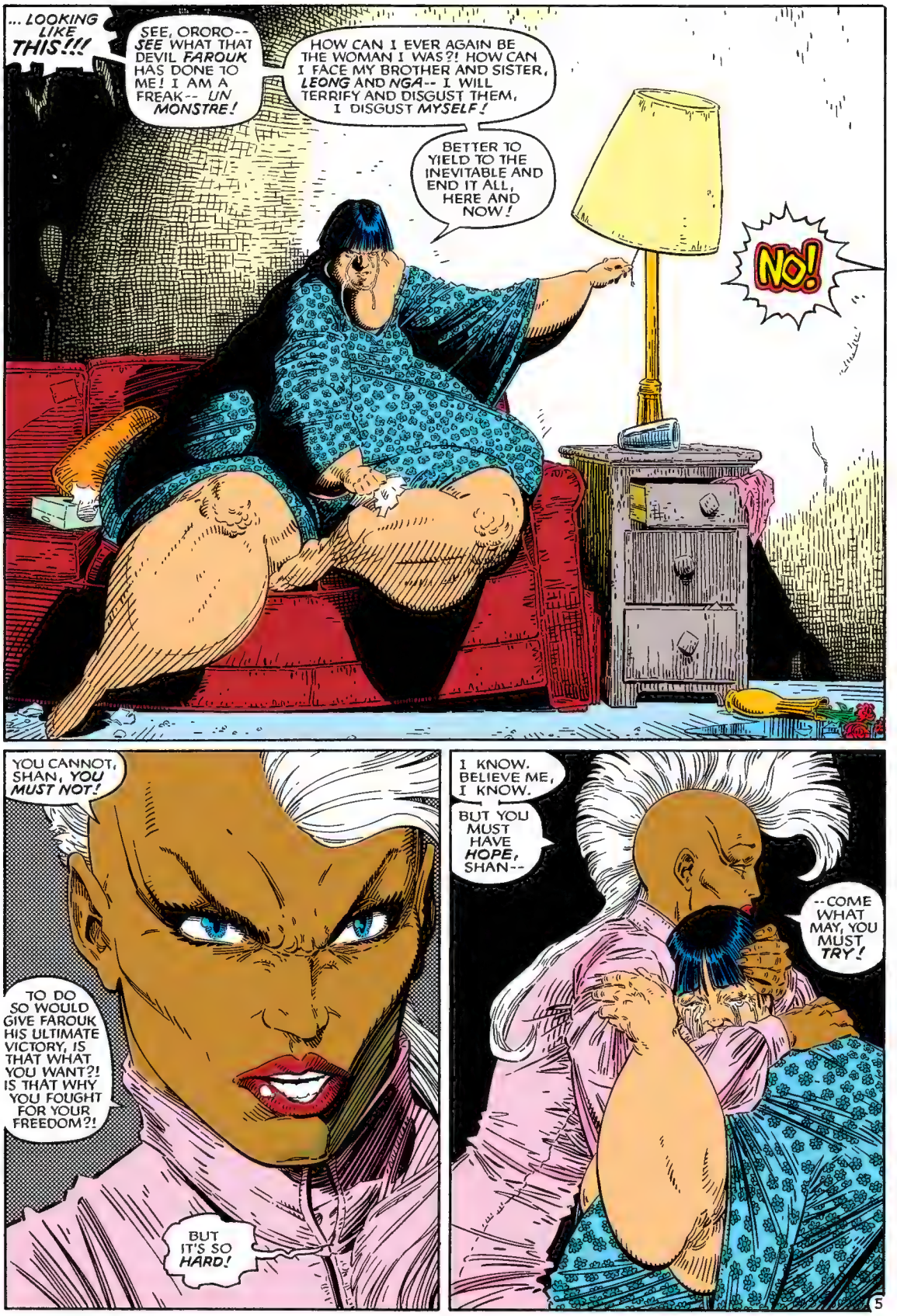
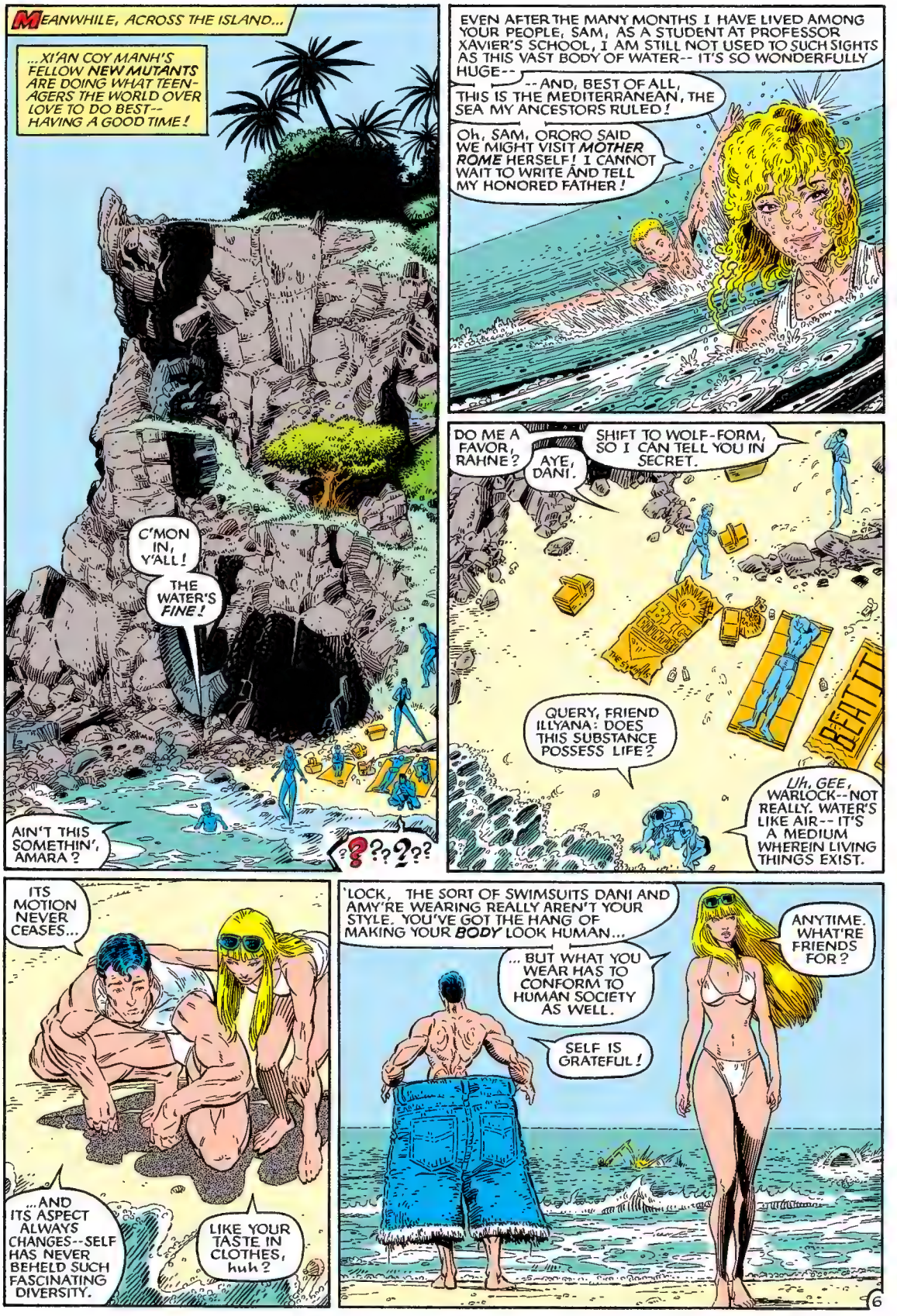
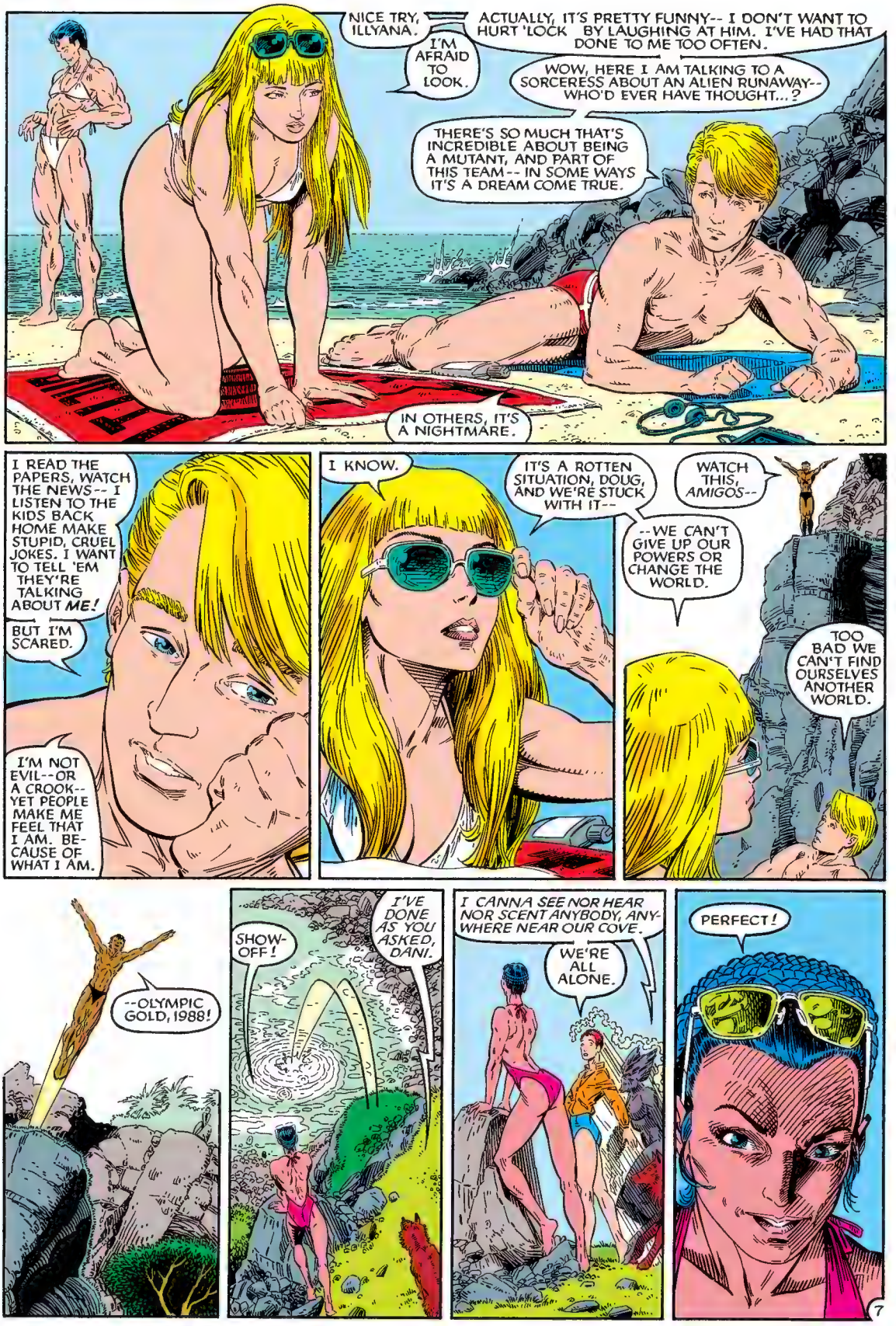

FROM HLIDSKJALF, THE HIGH SEAT--GAZING THROUGH THE CRYSTAL OF VISION-- THE LORD OF ASGARD CAN SEE ALL THERE IS TO SEE ON THE NINE WORLDS OF MORTAL MEN. IN THIS INSTANCE, A REPLAY OF THE RECENT BATTLE IN NEW YORK BETWEEN THE ASGARDIAN HOST, THE HEROES OF EARTH AND THE DEMON HORDES OF SURTUR.
I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND AT LAST THE FASCINATION THESE CREATURES HAVE FOR MY DOLTISH HALF-BROTHER, THOR.
THIS WOMAN, ORORO, HAS NO SPECIAL ABILITIES, YET SHE FIGHTS WITH A FIERCE COURAGE THAT WOULD DO THE LADY SIF PROUD.
HER NAME MEANS "BEAUTY" AND SHE IS IN TRUTH MOST PLEASING TO THE EYE, DESPITE HER DUSKY COLOR. LIKE ALL HEROES, SHE IS DEPRESSINGLY NOBLE...
...YET I SENSE WITHIN HER CONSIDERABLE PASSION, TOO LONG DENIED.
UNTIL RECENTLY, AS STORM, SHE LED A BAND OF MORTALS-- FROM THE OUTCAST CLAN CALLED MUTANTS--KNOWN AS THE X-MEN. HER POWER TO CONTROL THE ELEMENTS ECHOES THOR'S-- BUT HERS HAS BEEN STOLEN, IT SEEMS FOREVER. SHE CANNOT FLY, POOR THING, WIND AND WEATHER ARE NO LONGER HERS TO COMMAND.
I WONDER WHAT PRICE SHE WOULD PAY TO GET THEM BACK...
...TO BECOME A GODDESS IN FACT AS WELL AS NAME?

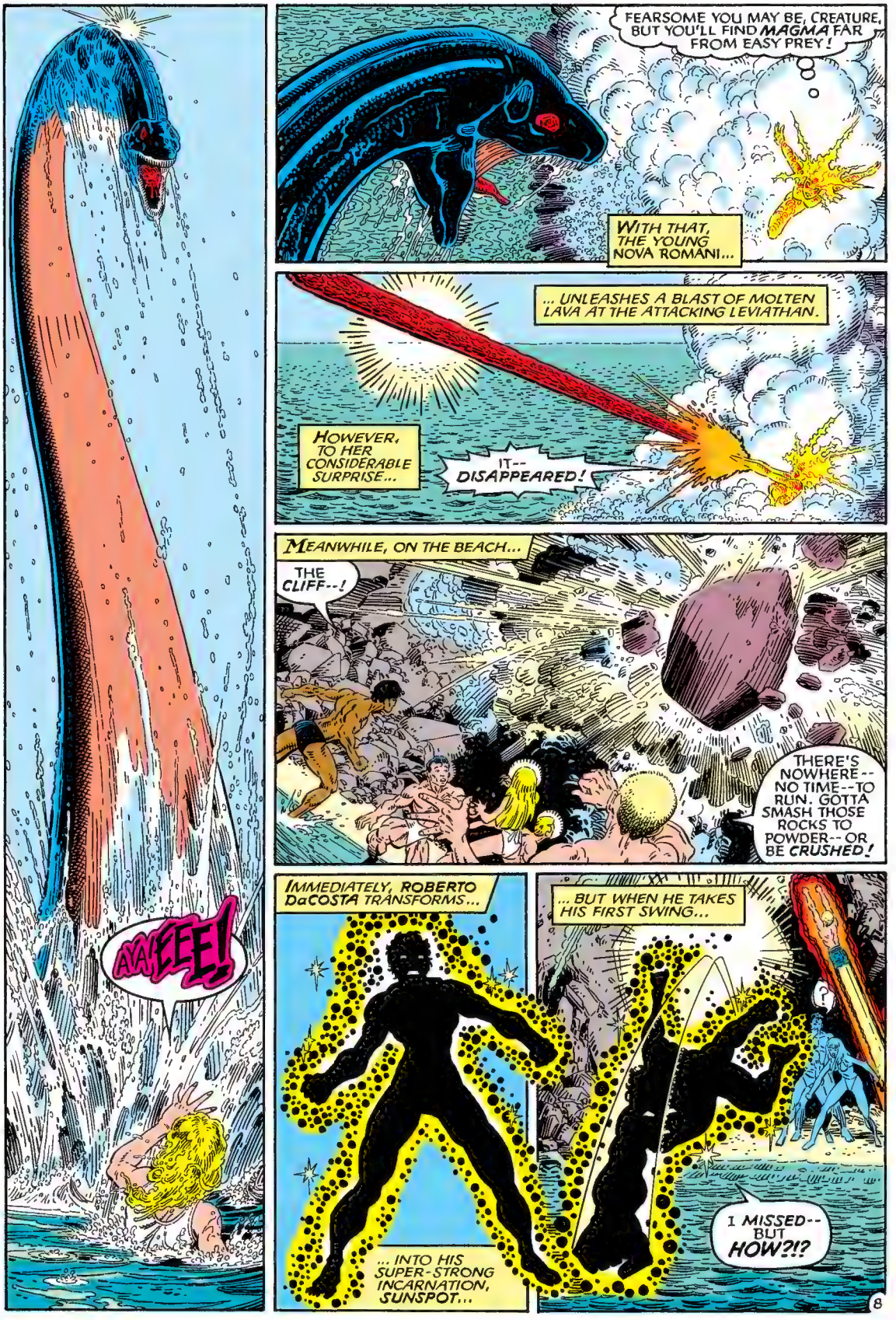

ENCHANTRESS--
YOU WISHED TO SEE ME, LOKI?
-- I HAVE A TASK FOR THEE.
I AM NO LACKEY, PRINCE OF EVIL--!
AND I, DESPITE MY REPUTATION, AM AS GENEROUS A FRIEND...
...AS I AM IMPLACABLE A FOE. WHICH, FAIR AMORA, WOULDST THOU HAVE ME BE?
FRIEND, MY LORD-- FOR NOW.
SPLENDID. JOURNEY FROM HENCE TO MIDGARD AND BRING ME THE WOMAN SHOWN IN THIS MYSTIC ORB.
WHY SUCH INTEREST IN A MERE MORTAL?
TRUE FRIENDS, SWEET ONE, MIND THEIR OWN AFFAIRS.
ORORO'S COMPANIONS, THE X-MEN, HAVE DONE ME GRIEVOUS HURT,* BUT I AM SWORN TO LEAVE THEM IN PEACE. I PRITHEE, REPAY THAT INSULT, A THOUSAND-FOLD.
BE INSPIRED, ENCHANTRESS. I WISH THEIR AGONIES TO BE AS LONG-LASTING AS THEY ARE EXQUISITE.
THY WILL BE DONE, LOKI...
... WITH PLEASURE.
*FOR THAT INCREDIBLE STORY SEE THE X-MEN & ALPHA FLIGHT CROSSOVER SPECIAL, ON SALE NOW-- AnnN.
X-MEN, THOU ART DOOMED.
ORORO, THY FLESH IS MINE-- AND SOON AFTER, THY SPIRIT!
THEN, WITH THINE AID, I WILL ASSUME MY RIGHTFUL PLACE...
... AS RULER OF ASGARD!!

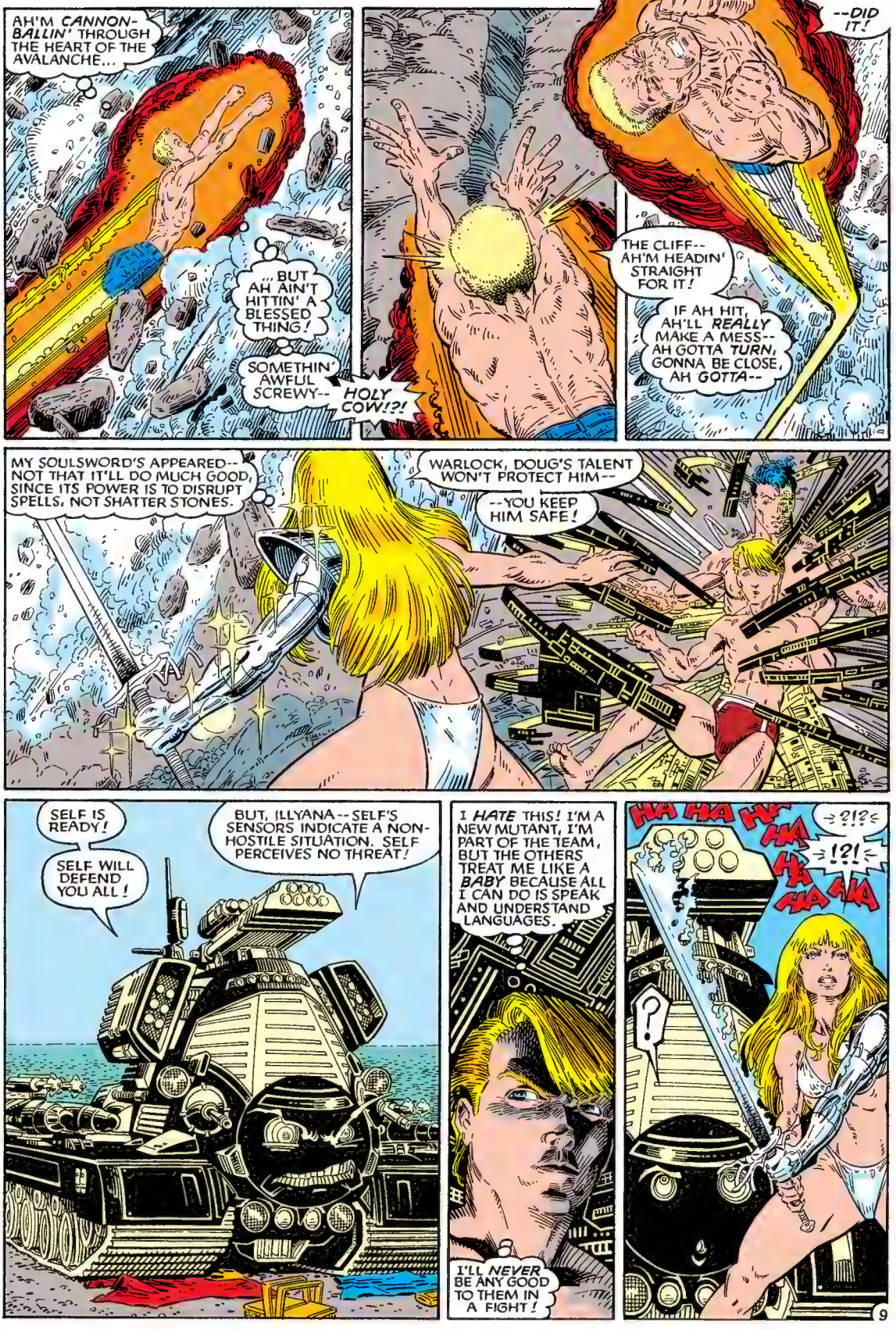

KIRIÑOS--
-- FEW PLACES ON EARTH CAN MATCH ITS ROUGH-HEWN, NATURAL BEAUTY.
OR ITS PEACE.
MORNIN', MISS ORORO!
AND TO YOU, Mr. STEELE, MISS HOLT-- IS THIS NOT THE LOVELIEST OF DAYS?
ARE THERE ANY OTHER KIND ON THIS ISLAND?
WE PASSED YOUR STUDENTS ON THEIR WAY TO THE NORTH COVE, LOOKED LIKE FOR A PICNIC. THEY'RE A DECENT CROWD, FOR CHILDREN-- BY THE WAY, HOW'S MISS MANH?
AS WELL...
...AS CAN BE EXPECTED. IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME...
SHAN, I HAVE BROUGHT YOU BREAK-FAST.
TAKE IT AWAY!
JE NE LE VEUX PAS, I DON'T WANT ANYTHING!!
KNK
YOU MUST EAT SOME-THING.
WHY?!
BETTER I STARVE THAN ENDURE THE REST OF MY LIFE...
4

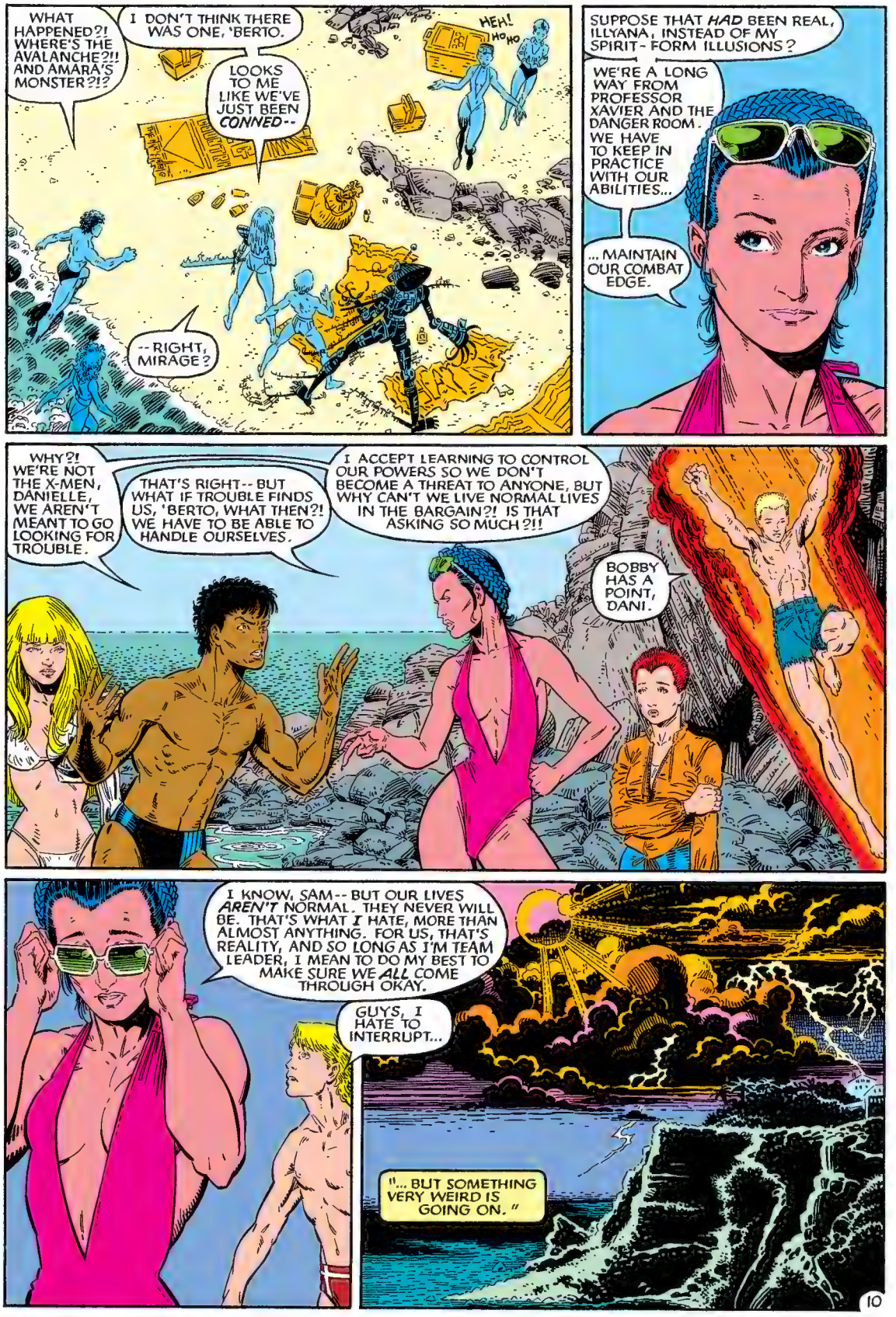

... LOOKING LIKE THIS!!!
SEE, ORORO-- SEE WHAT THAT DEVIL FAROUK HAS DONE TO ME! I AM A FREAK-- UN MONSTRE!
HOW CAN I EVER AGAIN BE THE WOMAN I WAS?! HOW CAN I FACE MY BROTHER AND SISTER, LEONG AND NGA-- I WILL TERRIFY AND DISGUST THEM, I DISGUST MYSELF!
BETTER TO YIELD TO THE INEVITABLE AND END IT ALL, HERE AND NOW!
NO!
YOU CANNOT, SHAN, YOU MUST NOT!
TO DO SO WOULD GIVE FAROUK HIS ULTIMATE VICTORY, IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?! IS THAT WHY YOU FOUGHT FOR YOUR FREEDOM?!
BUT IT'S SO HARD!
I KNOW. BELIEVE ME, I KNOW.
BUT YOU MUST HAVE HOPE, SHAN--
--COME WHAT MAY, YOU MUST TRY!

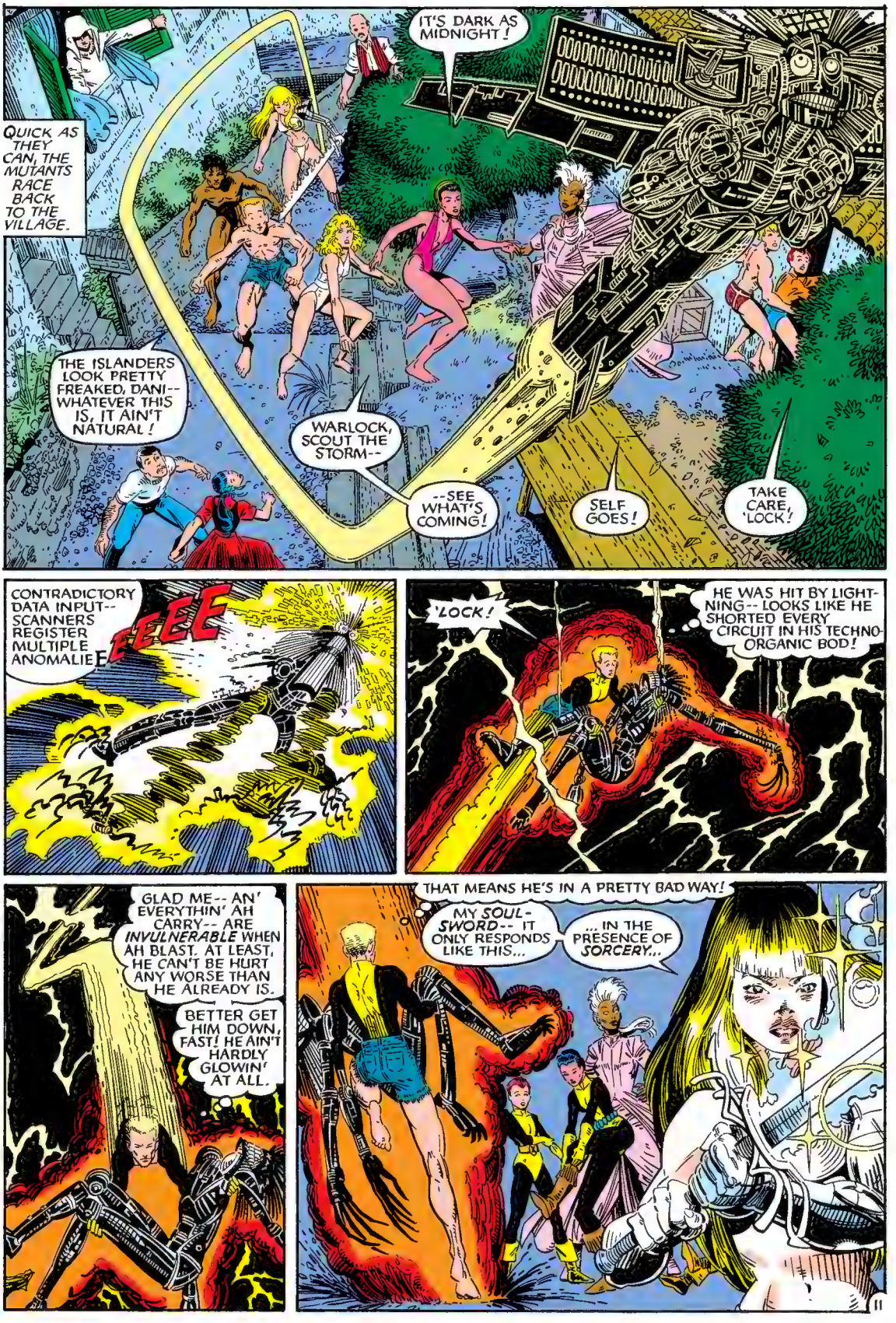

MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE ISLAND...
...XI'AN COY MANH'S FELLOW NEW MUTANTS ARE DOING WHAT TEENAGERS THE WORLD OVER LOVE TO DO BEST--HAVING A GOOD TIME!
C'MON IN, Y'ALL!
THE WATER'S FINE!
AIN'T THIS SOMETHIN', AMARA?
EVEN AFTER THE MANY MONTHS I HAVE LIVED AMONG YOUR PEOPLE, SAM, AS A STUDENT AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL, I AM STILL NOT USED TO SUCH SIGHTS AS THIS VAST BODY OF WATER-- IT'S SO WONDERFULLY HUGE--
--AND, BEST OF ALL, THIS IS THE MEDITERRANEAN, THE SEA MY ANCESTORS RULED!
OH, SAM, ORORO SAID WE MIGHT VISIT MOTHER ROME HERSELF! I CANNOT WAIT TO WRITE AND TELL MY HONORED FATHER!
DO ME A FAVOR, RAHNE?
AYE, DANI.
SHIFT TO WOLF-FORM, SO I CAN TELL YOU IN SECRET.
QUERY, FRIEND ILLYANA: DOES THIS SUBSTANCE POSSESS LIFE?
UH, GEE, WARLOCK--NOT REALLY. WATER'S LIKE AIR-- IT'S A MEDIUM WHEREIN LIVING THINGS EXIST.
ITS MOTION NEVER CEASES...
...AND ITS ASPECT ALWAYS CHANGES--SELF HAS NEVER BEHELD SUCH FASCINATING DIVERSITY.
LIKE YOUR TASTE IN CLOTHES, huh?
'LOCK, THE SORT OF SWIMSUITS DANI AND AMY'RE WEARING REALLY AREN'T YOUR STYLE. YOU'VE GOT THE HANG OF MAKING YOUR BODY LOOK HUMAN...
...BUT WHAT YOU WEAR HAS TO CONFORM TO HUMAN SOCIETY AS WELL.
SELF IS GRATEFUL!
ANYTIME. WHAT'RE FRIENDS FOR?

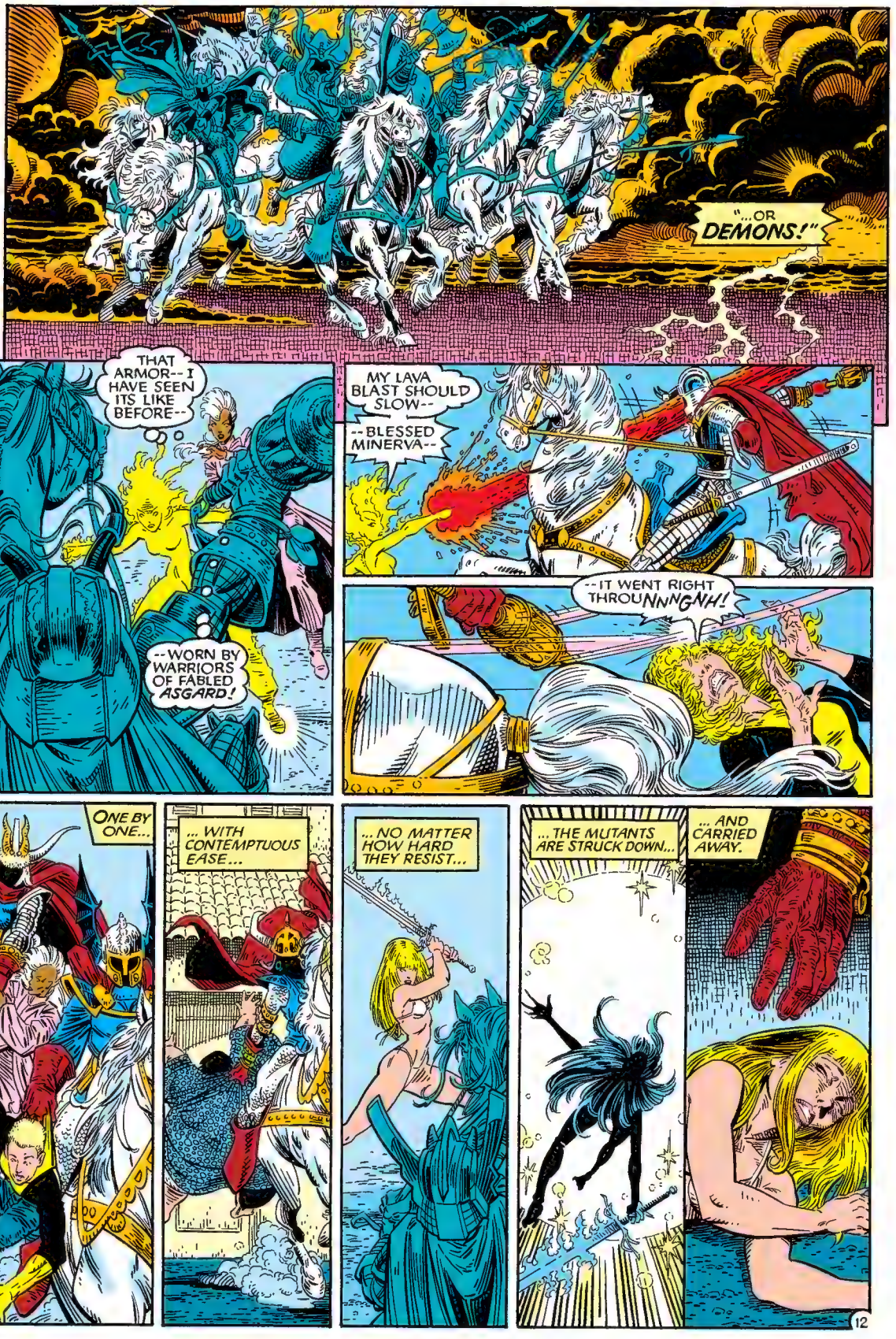

NICE TRY, ILLYANA.
I'M AFRAID TO LOOK.
ACTUALLY, IT'S PRETTY FUNNY-- I DON'T WANT TO HURT 'LOCK BY LAUGHING AT HIM. I'VE HAD THAT DONE TO ME TOO OFTEN.
WOW, HERE I AM TALKING TO A SORCERESS ABOUT AN ALIEN RUNAWAY-- WHO'D EVER HAVE THOUGHT...?
THERE'S SO MUCH THAT'S INCREDIBLE ABOUT BEING A MUTANT, AND PART OF THIS TEAM-- IN SOME WAYS IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE.
IN OTHERS, IT'S A NIGHTMARE.
I READ THE PAPERS, WATCH THE NEWS-- I LISTEN TO THE KIDS BACK HOME MAKE STUPID, CRUEL JOKES. I WANT TO TELL 'EM THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ME!
BUT I'M SCARED.
I'M NOT EVIL--OR A CROOK-- YET PEOPLE MAKE ME FEEL THAT I AM. BECAUSE OF WHAT I AM.
I KNOW.
IT'S A ROTTEN SITUATION, DOUG, AND WE'RE STUCK WITH IT--
--WE CAN'T GIVE UP OUR POWERS OR CHANGE THE WORLD.
WATCH THIS, AMIGOS--
TOO BAD WE CAN'T FIND OURSELVES ANOTHER WORLD.
--OLYMPIC GOLD, 1988!
SHOW-OFF!
I'VE DONE AS YOU ASKED, DANI.
I CANNA SEE NOR HEAR NOR SCENT ANYBODY, ANYWHERE NEAR OUR COVE.
WE'RE ALL ALONE.
PERFECT!


AYAGEE!
FEARSOME YOU MAY BE, CREATURE, BUT YOU'LL FIND MAGMA FAR FROM EASY PREY!
WITH THAT, THE YOUNG NOVA ROMANI...
... UNLEASHES A BLAST OF MOLTEN LAVA AT THE ATTACKING LEVIATHAN.
HOWEVER, TO HER CONSIDERABLE SURPRISE...
IT-- DISAPPEARED!
MEANWHILE, ON THE BEACH...
THE CLIFF--!
THERE'S NOWHERE-- NO TIME--TO RUN. GOTTA SMASH THOSE ROCKS TO POWDER-- OR BE CRUSHED!
IMMEDIATELY, ROBERTO DaCOSTA TRANSFORMS...
... INTO HIS SUPER-STRONG INCARNATION, SUNSPOT...
... BUT WHEN HE TAKES HIS FIRST SWING...
I MISSED-- BUT HOW?!?

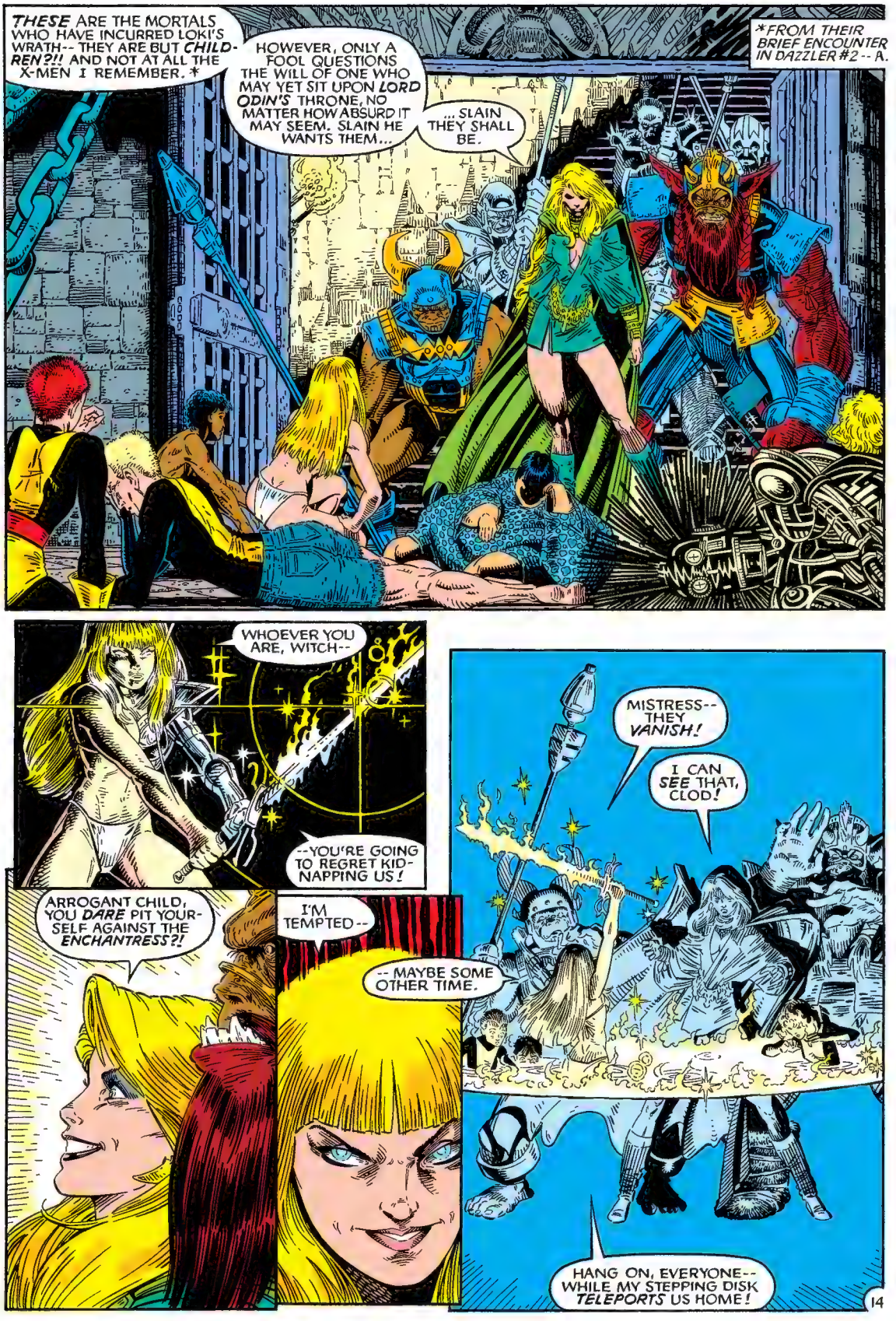

AH'M CANNON-BALLIN' THROUGH THE HEART OF THE AVALANCHE...
...BUT AH AIN'T HITTIN' A BLESSED THING!
SOMETHIN' AWFUL SCREWY--
HOLY COW!?!
--DID IT!
THE CLIFF-- AH'M HEADIN' STRAIGHT FOR IT!
IF AH HIT, AH'LL REALLY MAKE A MESS-- AH GOTTA TURN, GONNA BE CLOSE, AH GOTTA--
MY SOULSWORD'S APPEARED-- NOT THAT IT'LL DO MUCH GOOD, SINCE ITS POWER IS TO DISRUPT SPELLS, NOT SHATTER STONES.
WARLOCK, DOUG'S TALENT WON'T PROTECT HIM--
--YOU KEEP HIM SAFE!
SELF IS READY!
SELF WILL DEFEND YOU ALL!
BUT, ILLYANA--SELF'S SENSORS INDICATE A NON-HOSTILE SITUATION. SELF PERCEIVES NO THREAT!
I HATE THIS! I'M A NEW MUTANT, I'M PART OF THE TEAM, BUT THE OTHERS TREAT ME LIKE A BABY BECAUSE ALL I CAN DO IS SPEAK AND UNDERSTAND LANGUAGES.
I'LL NEVER BE ANY GOOD TO THEM IN A FIGHT!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
-?!?-
-!?!-
?

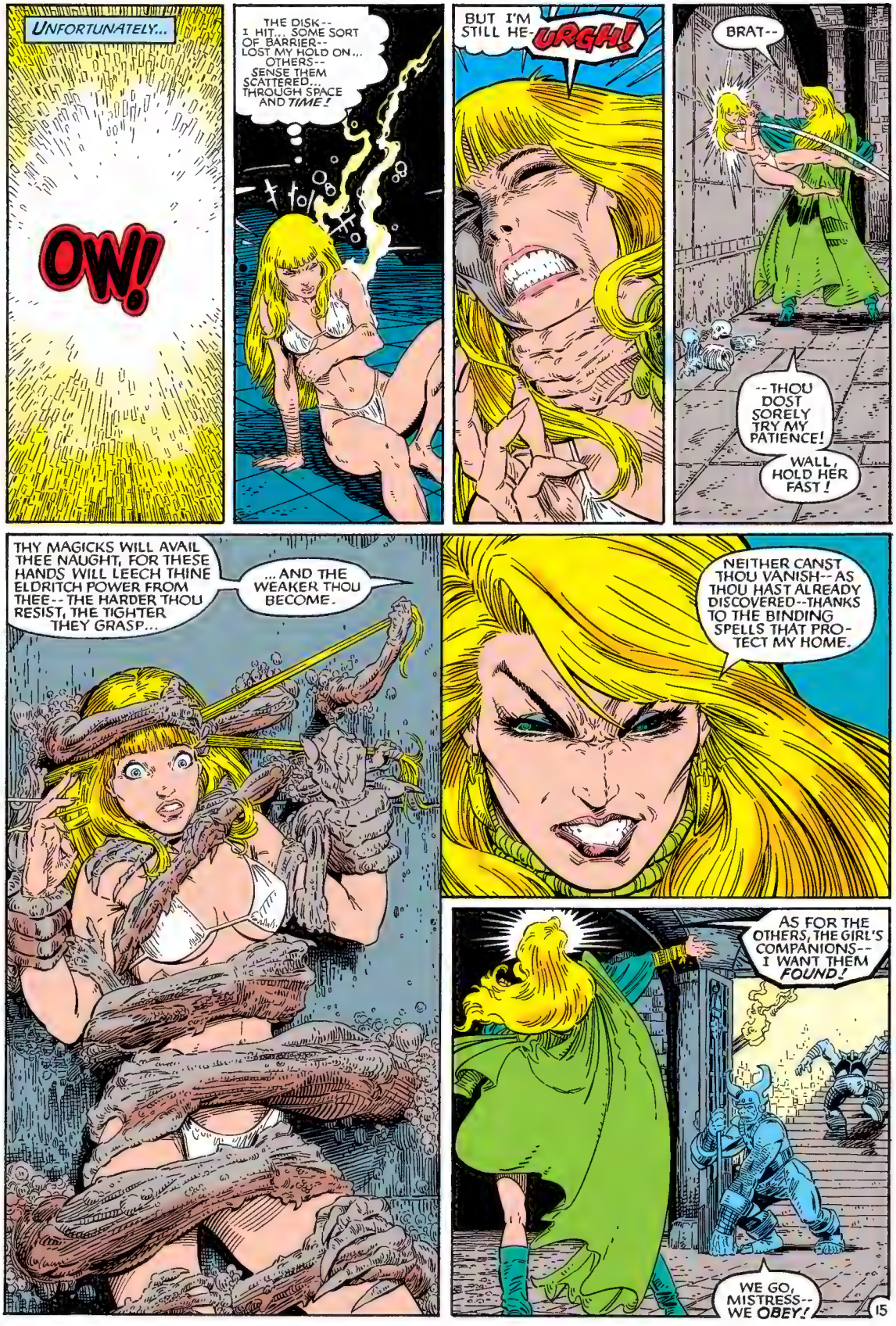

WHAT HAPPENED?! WHERE'S THE AVALANCHE?!! AND AMARA'S MONSTER?!?
I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ONE, 'BERTO.
LOOKS TO ME LIKE WE'VE JUST BEEN CONNED--
HEH! HO HO
--RIGHT, MIRAGE?
SUPPOSE THAT HAD BEEN REAL, ILLYANA, INSTEAD OF MY SPIRIT-FORM ILLUSIONS?
WE'RE A LONG WAY FROM PROFESSOR XAVIER AND THE DANGER ROOM. WE HAVE TO KEEP IN PRACTICE WITH OUR ABILITIES...
...MAINTAIN OUR COMBAT EDGE.
WHY?! WE'RE NOT THE X-MEN, DANIELLE, WE AREN'T MEANT TO GO LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.
THAT'S RIGHT-- BUT WHAT IF TROUBLE FINDS US, 'BERTO, WHAT THEN?! WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE OURSELVES.
I ACCEPT LEARNING TO CONTROL OUR POWERS SO WE DON'T BECOME A THREAT TO ANYONE, BUT WHY CAN'T WE LIVE NORMAL LIVES IN THE BARGAIN?! IS THAT ASKING SO MUCH?!!
BOBBY HAS A POINT, DANI.
I KNOW, SAM-- BUT OUR LIVES AREN'T NORMAL. THEY NEVER WILL BE. THAT'S WHAT I HATE, MORE THAN ALMOST ANYTHING. FOR US, THAT'S REALITY, AND SO LONG AS I'M TEAM LEADER, I MEAN TO DO MY BEST TO MAKE SURE WE ALL COME THROUGH OKAY.
GUYS, I HATE TO INTERRUPT...
"... BUT SOMETHING VERY WEIRD IS GOING ON."

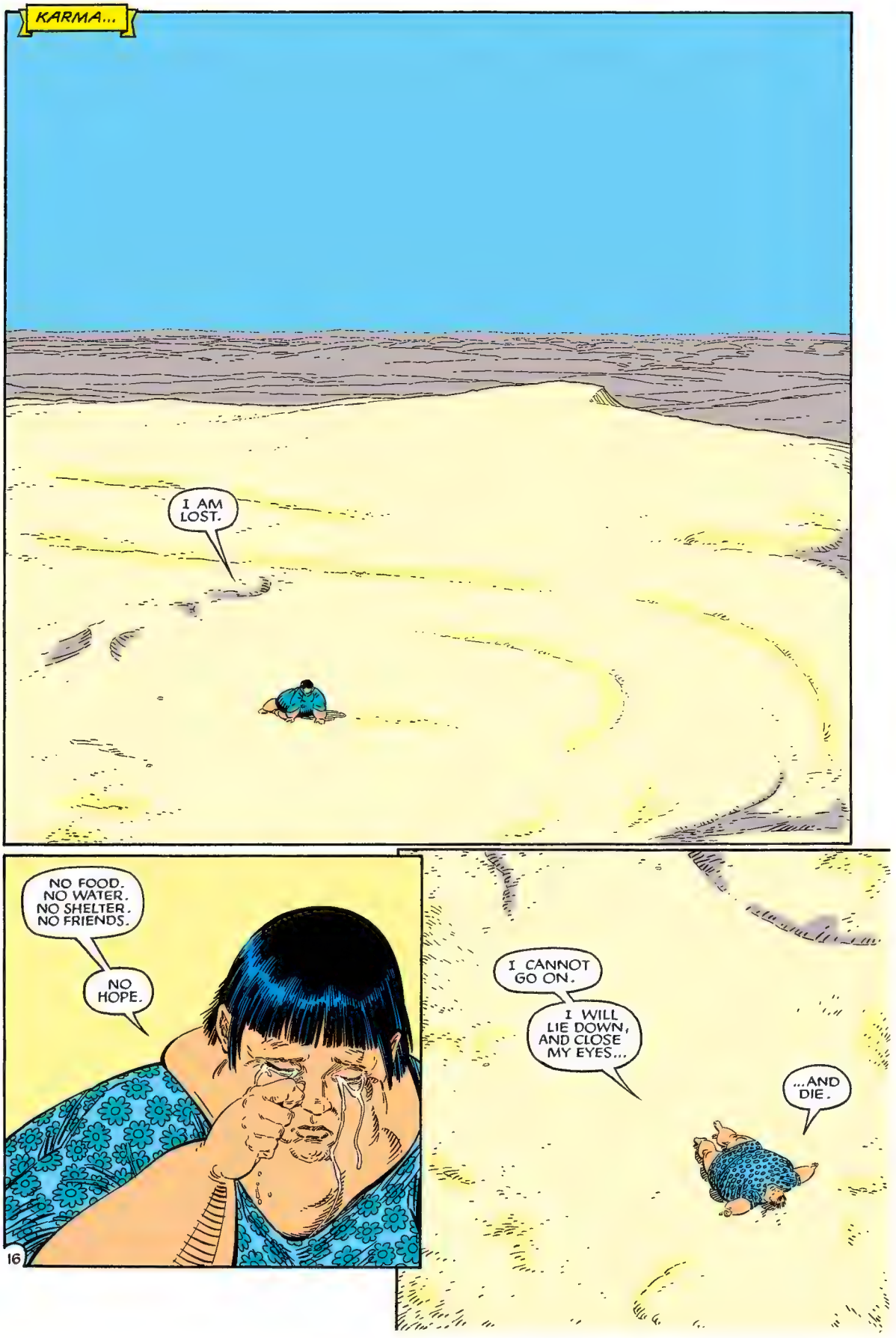

QUICK AS THEY CAN, THE MUTANTS RACE BACK TO THE VILLAGE.
IT'S DARK AS MIDNIGHT!
THE ISLANDERS LOOK PRETTY FREAKED, DANI-- WHATEVER THIS IS, IT AIN'T NATURAL!
WARLOCK, SCOUT THE STORM--
--SEE WHAT'S COMING!
SELF GOES!
TAKE CARE, 'LOCK!
CONTRADICTORY DATA INPUT-- SCANNERS REGISTER MULTIPLE ANOMALIE
EEEE
'LOCK!
HE WAS HIT BY LIGHTNING-- LOOKS LIKE HE SHORTED EVERY CIRCUIT IN HIS TECHNO-ORGANIC BOD!
GLAD ME-- AN' EVERYTHIN' AH CARRY-- ARE *INVULNERABLE* WHEN AH BLAST. AT LEAST, HE CAN'T BE HURT ANY WORSE THAN HE ALREADY IS.
BETTER GET HIM DOWN, FAST! HE AIN'T HARDLY GLOWIN' AT ALL.
THAT MEANS HE'S IN A PRETTY BAD WAY!
MY *SOUL-SWORD*-- IT ONLY RESPONDS LIKE THIS...
... IN THE PRESENCE OF *SORCERY*...
11

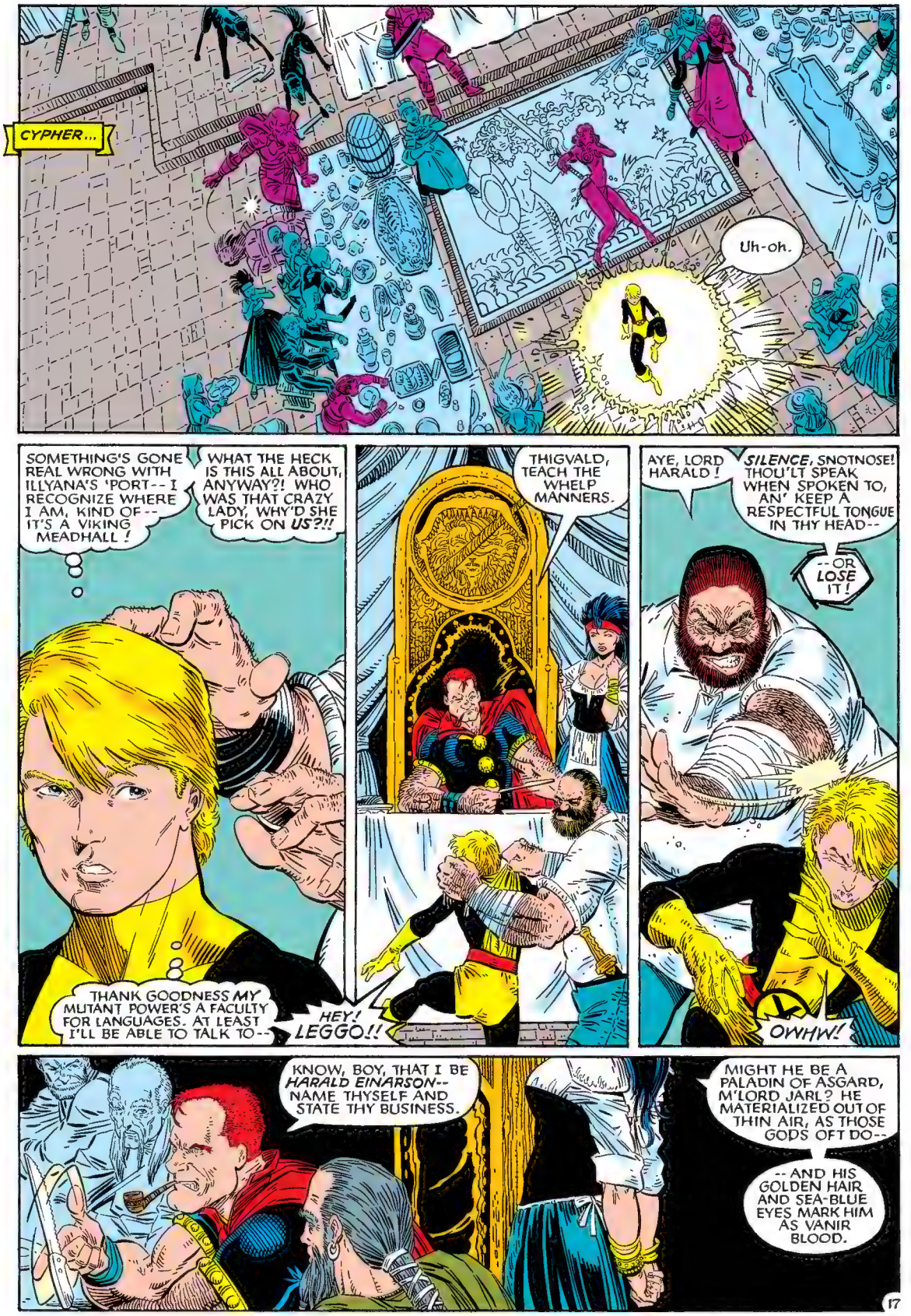

"...OR DEMONS!"
THAT ARMOR--I HAVE SEEN ITS LIKE BEFORE--
--WORN BY WARRIORS OF FABLED ASGARD!
MY LAVA BLAST SHOULD SLOW--
--BLESSED MINERVA--
--IT WENT RIGHT THROUNNNGNH!
ONE BY ONE...
... WITH CONTEMPTUOUS EASE...
... NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY RESIST...
... THE MUTANTS ARE STRUCK DOWN...
... AND CARRIED AWAY.

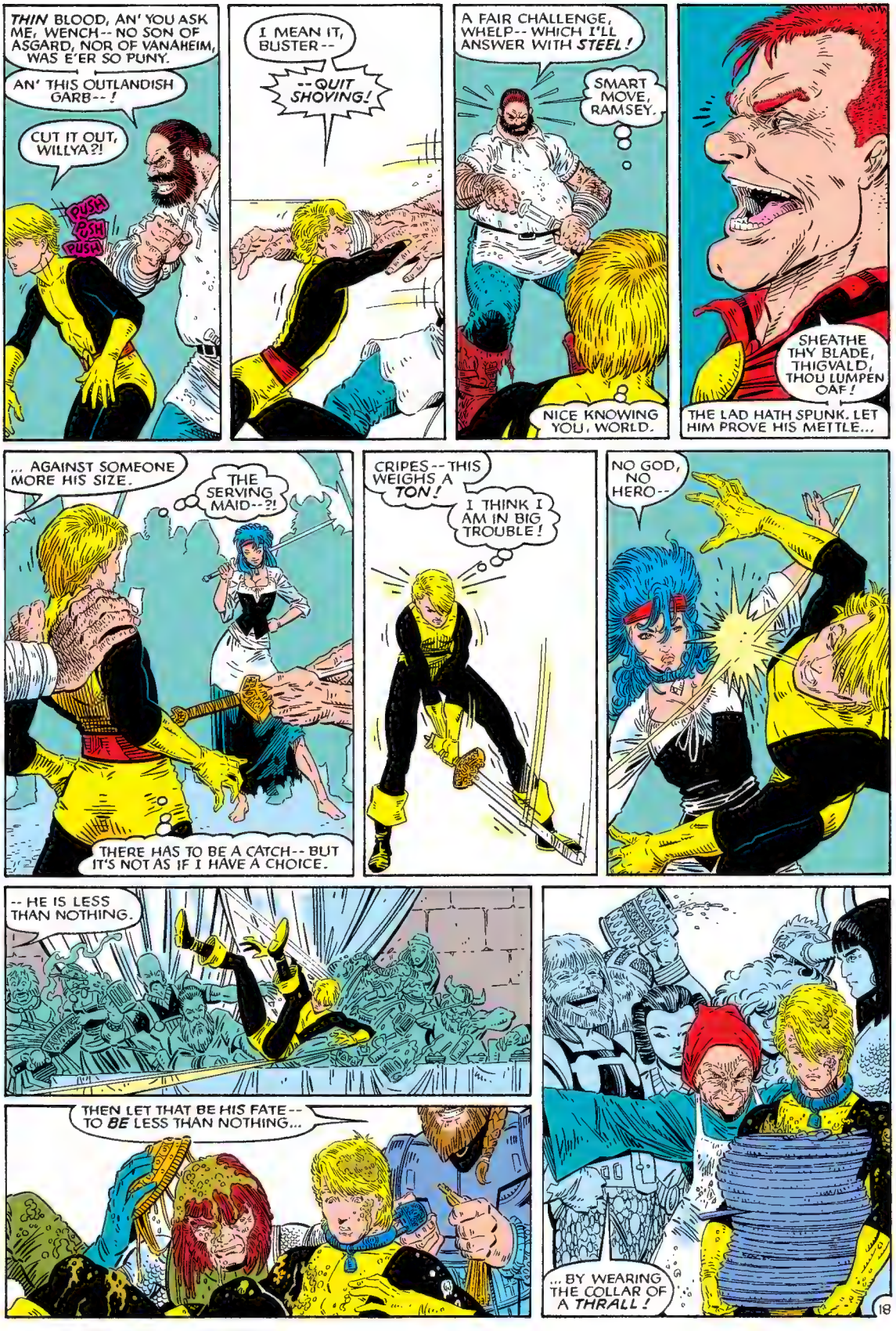
WHAT--!?!
WHERE AM I--?!?
WHO--?!!
WELCOME, MY DEAR, TO THY NEW HOME.
HUSH, ORORO.
BE THOU STILL IN MIND AND BODY...
... WITHIN THY CRYSTAL CHRYSALIS.
FURTHER, MY SLEEPING BEAUTY, LET THY RAIMENT BECOME THAT MORE SUITED TO A GODDESS.
THY FATE SHALL BE MADE PLAIN TO THEE, ANON-- WHEN LOKI'S FELL MAGICS HAVE ENSURED THAT THOU WILT EMBRACE IT, AS JOYFULLY AS THE FLOWER DOTH THE MORNING SUN.

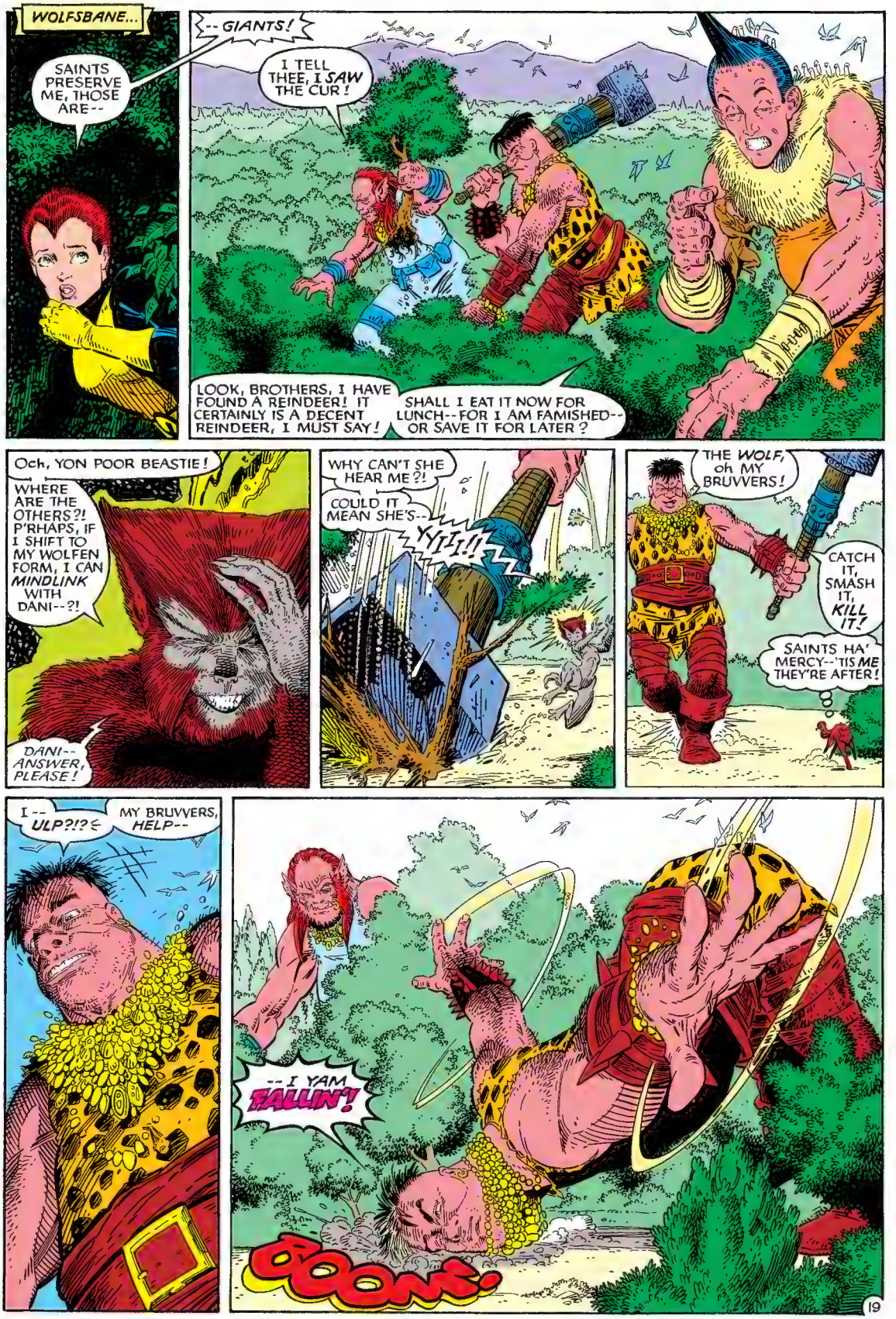

THESE ARE THE MORTALS WHO HAVE INCURRED LOKI'S WRATH-- THEY ARE BUT CHILDREN?!! AND NOT AT ALL THE X-MEN I REMEMBER. *
HOWEVER, ONLY A FOOL QUESTIONS THE WILL OF ONE WHO MAY YET SIT UPON LORD ODIN'S THRONE, NO MATTER HOW ABSURD IT MAY SEEM. SLAIN HE WANTS THEM...
...SLAIN THEY SHALL BE.
*FROM THEIR BRIEF ENCOUNTER IN DAZZLER #2 -- A.
WHOEVER YOU ARE, WITCH--
--YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET KIDNAPPING US!
MISTRESS-- THEY VANISH!
I CAN SEE THAT, CLOD!
ARROGANT CHILD, YOU DARE PIT YOURSELF AGAINST THE ENCHANTRESS?!
I'M TEMPTED--
--MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME.
HANG ON, EVERYONE-- WHILE MY STEPPING DISK TELEPORTS US HOME!


UNFORTUNATELY...
OW!
THE DISK-- I HIT... SOME SORT OF BARRIER-- LOST MY HOLD ON... OTHERS-- SENSE THEM SCATTERED... THROUGH SPACE AND TIME!
BUT I'M STILL HE-
URGH!
BRAT--
--THOU DOST SORELY TRY MY PATIENCE!
WALL, HOLD HER FAST!
THY MAGICKS WILL AVAIL THEE NAUGHT, FOR THESE HANDS WILL LEECH THINE ELDRITCH POWER FROM THEE-- THE HARDER THOU RESIST, THE TIGHTER THEY GRASP...
...AND THE WEAKER THOU BECOME.
NEITHER CANST THOU VANISH-- AS THOU HAST ALREADY DISCOVERED--THANKS TO THE BINDING SPELLS THAT PROTECT MY HOME.
AS FOR THE OTHERS, THE GIRL'S COMPANIONS-- I WANT THEM FOUND!
WE GO, MISTRESS-- WE OBEY!

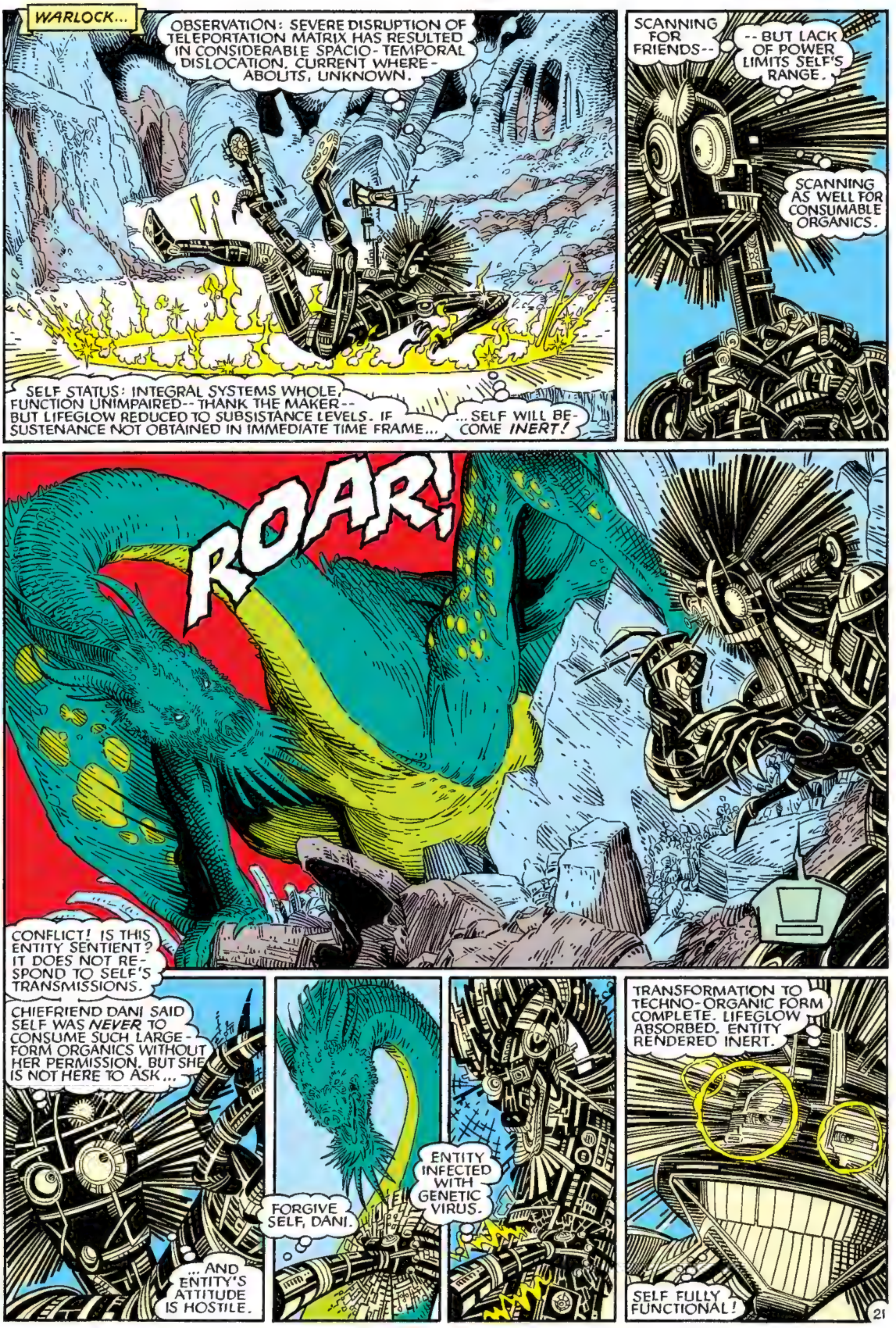

KARMA...
I AM LOST.
NO FOOD. NO WATER. NO SHELTER. NO FRIENDS.
NO HOPE.
I CANNOT GO ON.
I WILL LIE DOWN, AND CLOSE MY EYES...
...AND DIE.

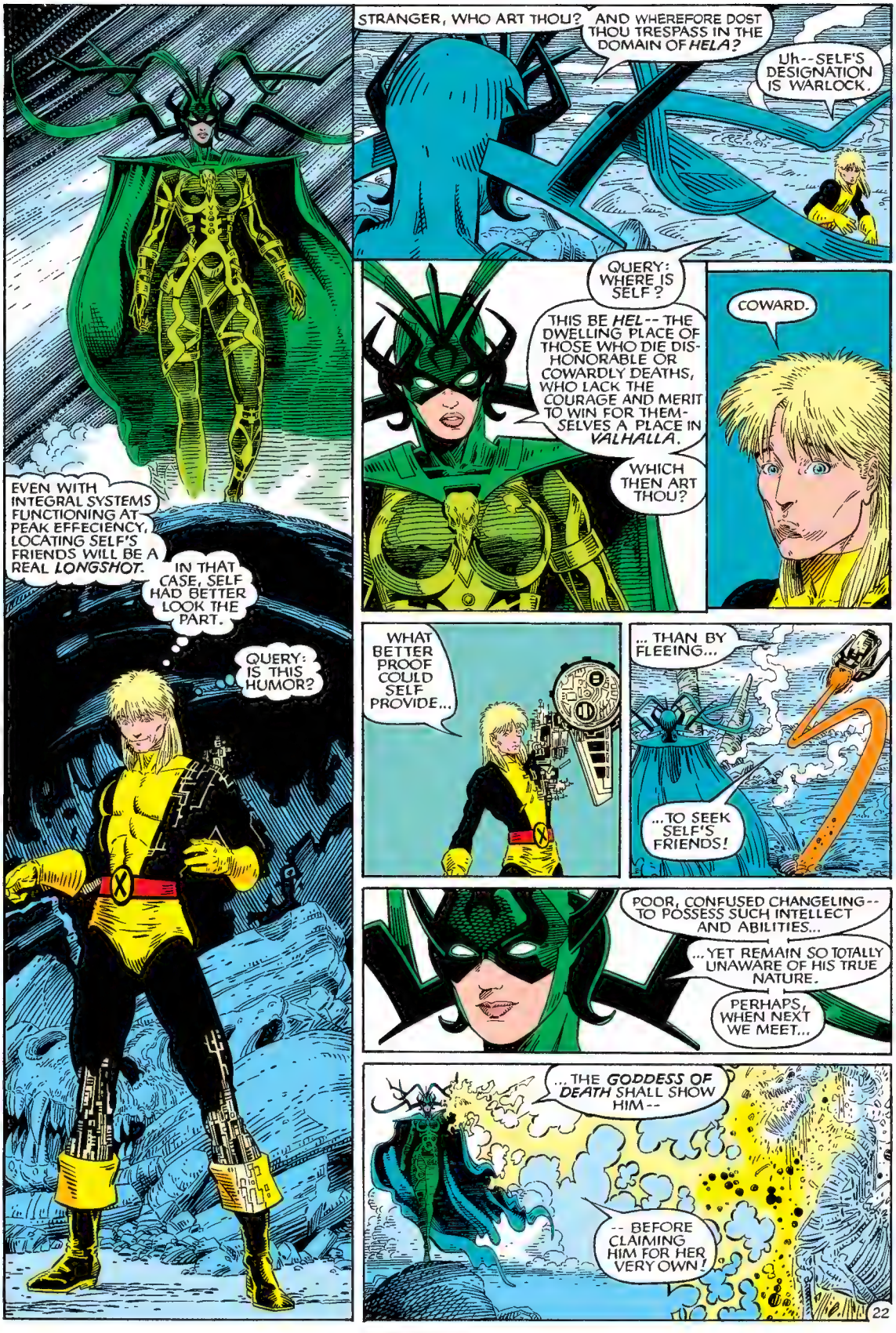

CYPHER...
Uh-oh.
SOMETHING'S GONE REAL WRONG WITH ILLYANA'S 'PORT-- I RECOGNIZE WHERE I AM, KIND OF-- IT'S A VIKING MEADHALL!
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY?! WHO WAS THAT CRAZY LADY, WHY'D SHE PICK ON US?!!
THANK GOODNESS MY MUTANT POWER'S A FACULTY FOR LANGUAGES. AT LEAST I'LL BE ABLE TO TALK TO--
HEY! LEGGO!!
THIGVALD, TEACH THE WHELP MANNERS.
AYE, LORD HARALD!
SILENCE, SNOTNOSE! THOU'LT SPEAK WHEN SPOKEN TO, AN' KEEP A RESPECTFUL TONGUE IN THY HEAD--
--OR LOSE IT!
OWHW!
KNOW, BOY, THAT I BE HARALD EINARSON-- NAME THYSELF AND STATE THY BUSINESS.
MIGHT HE BE A PALADIN OF ASGARD, M'LORD JARL? HE MATERIALIZED OUT OF THIN AIR, AS THOSE GODS OFT DO--
--AND HIS GOLDEN HAIR AND SEA-BLUE EYES MARK HIM AS VANIR BLOOD.

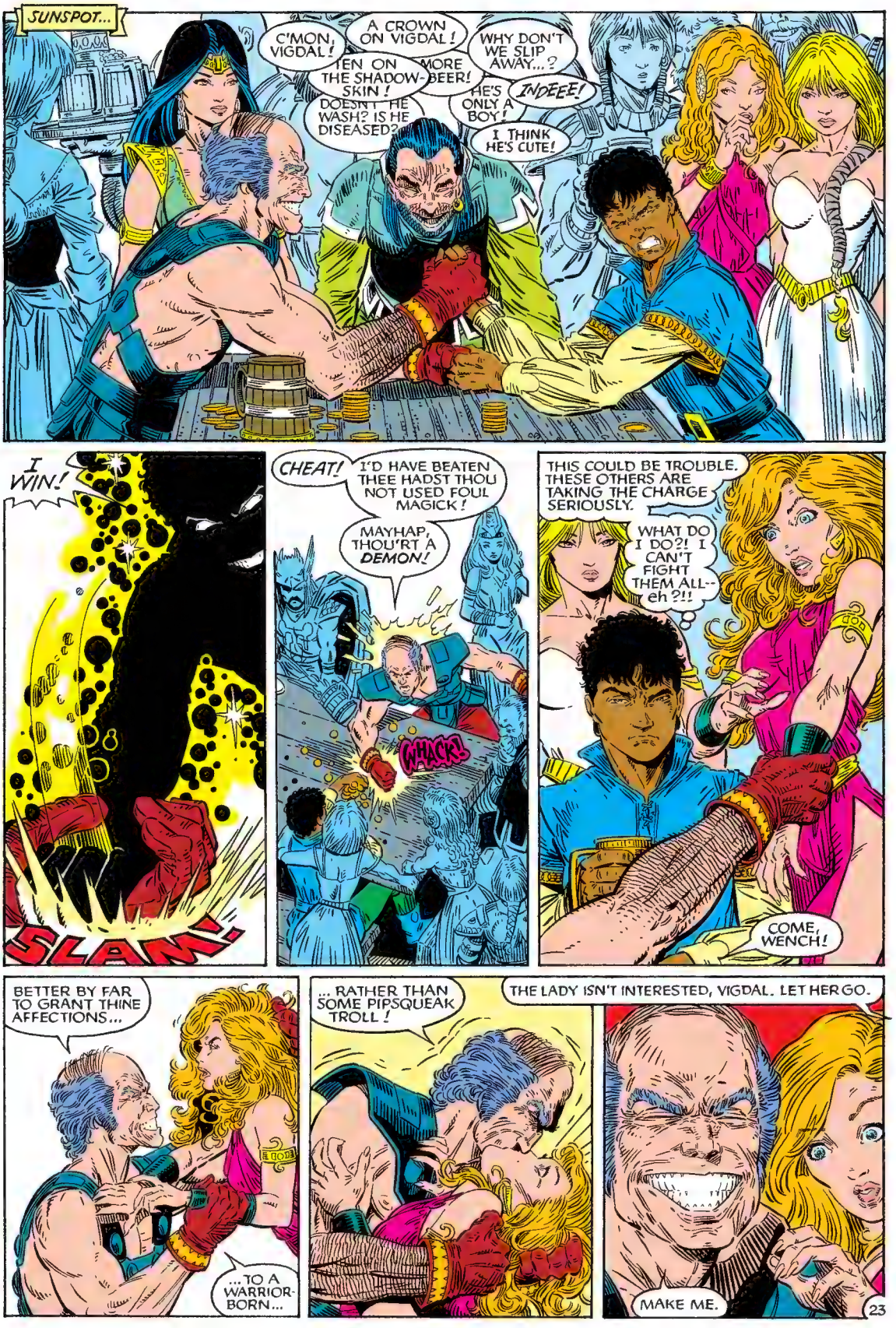

THIN BLOOD, AN' YOU ASK ME, WENCH-- NO SON OF ASGARD, NOR OF VANAHEIM, WAS E'ER SO PUNY.
AN' THIS OUTLANDISH GARB--!
CUT IT OUT, WILLYA?!
PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
I MEAN IT, BUSTER--
--QUIT SHOVING!
A FAIR CHALLENGE, WHELP-- WHICH I'LL ANSWER WITH STEEL!
SMART MOVE, RAMSEY.
NICE KNOWING YOU, WORLD.
SHEATHE THY BLADE, THIGVALD, THOU LUMPEN OAF!
THE LAD HATH SPUNK. LET HIM PROVE HIS METTLE...
... AGAINST SOMEONE MORE HIS SIZE.
THE SERVING MAID--?!
THERE HAS TO BE A CATCH-- BUT IT'S NOT AS IF I HAVE A CHOICE.
CRIPES--THIS WEIGHS A TON!
I THINK I AM IN BIG TROUBLE!
NO GOD, NO HERO--
-- HE IS LESS THAN NOTHING.
THEN LET THAT BE HIS FATE-- TO BE LESS THAN NOTHING...
... BY WEARING THE COLLAR OF A THRALL!
18

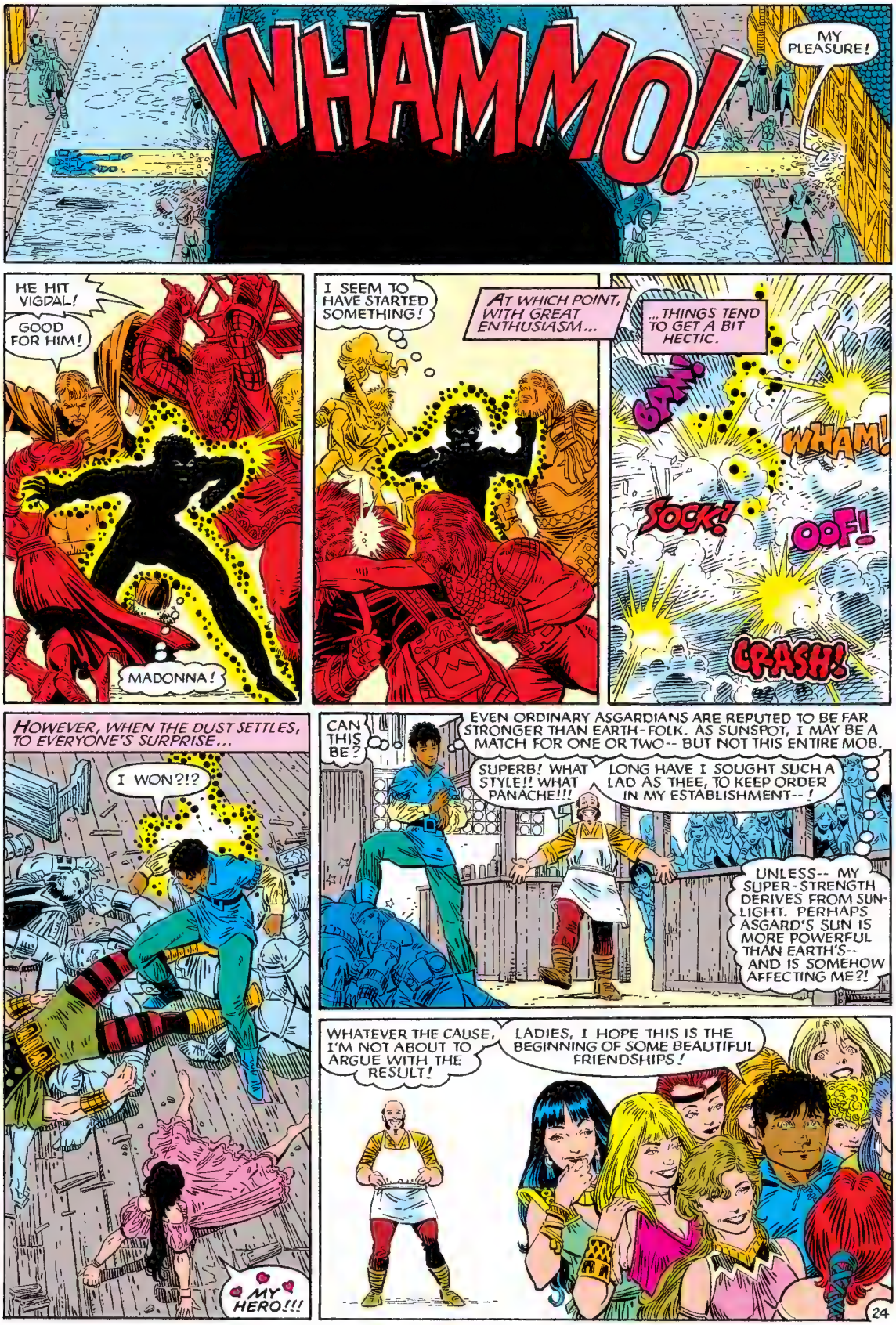

WOLFSBANE...
SAINTS PRESERVE ME, THOSE ARE--
-- GIANTS!
I TELL THEE, I SAW THE CUR!
LOOK, BROTHERS, I HAVE FOUND A REINDEER! IT CERTAINLY IS A DECENT REINDEER, I MUST SAY!
SHALL I EAT IT NOW FOR LUNCH--FOR I AM FAMISHED--OR SAVE IT FOR LATER?
Och, YON POOR BEASTIE!
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?! P'RHAPS, IF I SHIFT TO MY WOLFEN FORM, I CAN MINDLINK WITH DANI--?!
DANI--ANSWER, PLEASE!
WHY CAN'T SHE HEAR ME?!
COULD IT MEAN SHE'S--
YYIIII!!
THE WOLF, oh MY BRUVVERS!
CATCH IT, SMASH IT, KILL IT!
SAINTS HA' MERCY--'TIS ME THEY'RE AFTER!
I --
ULP?!?
MY BRUVVERS, HELP--
-- I YAM FALLIN'!
BOONK.

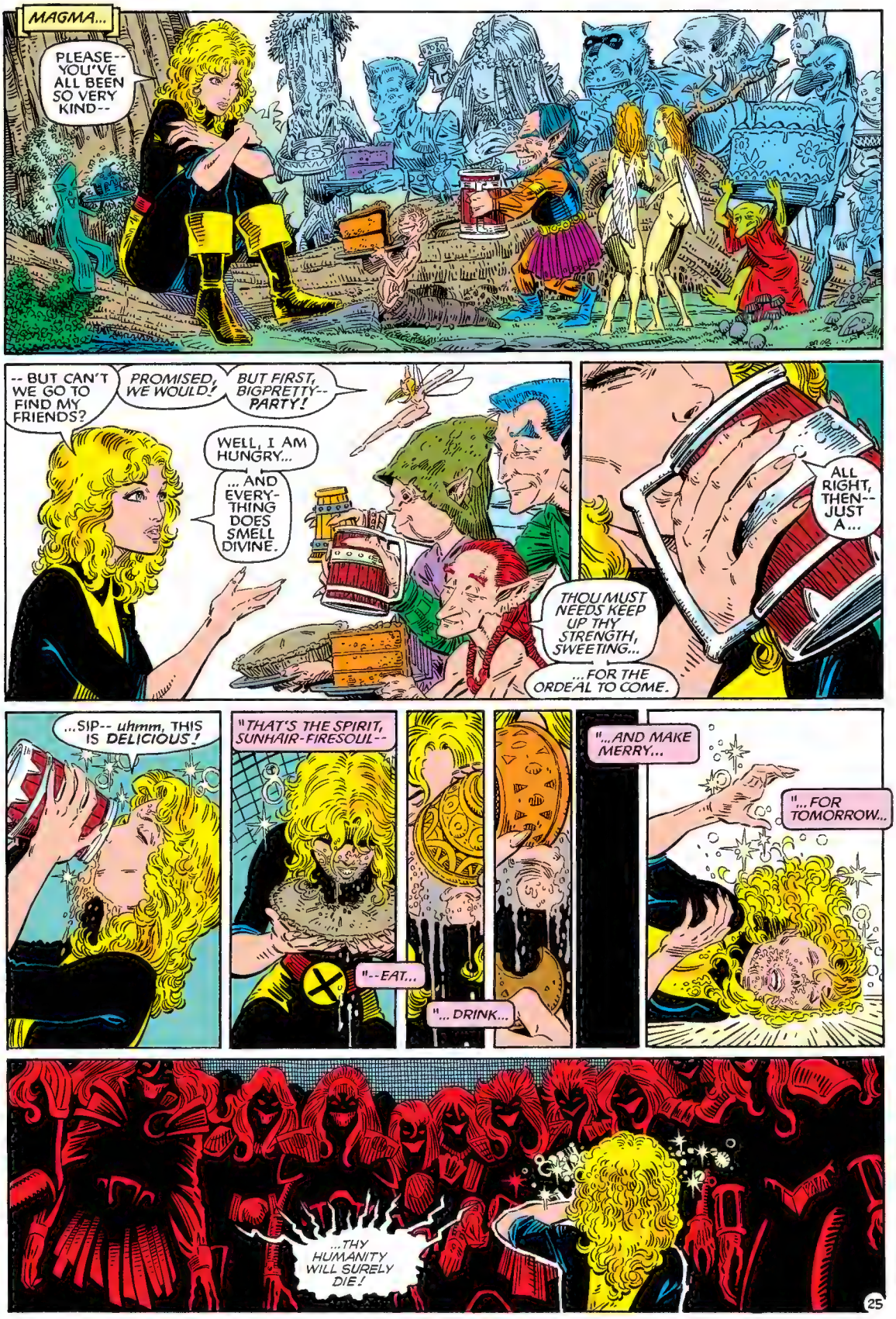
OWWEHRR!
CHOMP!
PARDON ME, BROTHER, BUT YOU SEEM TO BE STANDING ON MY FOOT, I MUST SAY!
AAEEEIIIGHK! MY JUICE IS FALLIN' OUT!
AAEEGH!
BROTHER, HAVE A CARE--
--WE ARE FALLING OVER!
KA BOOM BOOM BOOM
HAHA
HEE HEE
HO HO
GUFFAW
LIKED THAT, DID THEE?
Gasp! YOU SAVED ME?!
I COULD DO NO LESS, FAIR LADY...
... SINCE I WAS THEIR TRUE QUARRY.
THANK YOU.
'TWAS MY PLEASURE.
THEY'LL BE UP SOON. IF I WERE THEE, I'D BE FAR AWAY BY THEN.
BUT WHERE SHALL I GO?
WITH ME.
BUT MY FRIENDS-- I MUST FIND...
SUIT THY-SELF, LASS! FARE-WELL!
WHAT AM I TO DO-- HE'S SO HANDSOME, AN' MAKES ME FEEL SO STRANGE--
--WAIT! PLEASE, WAIT!

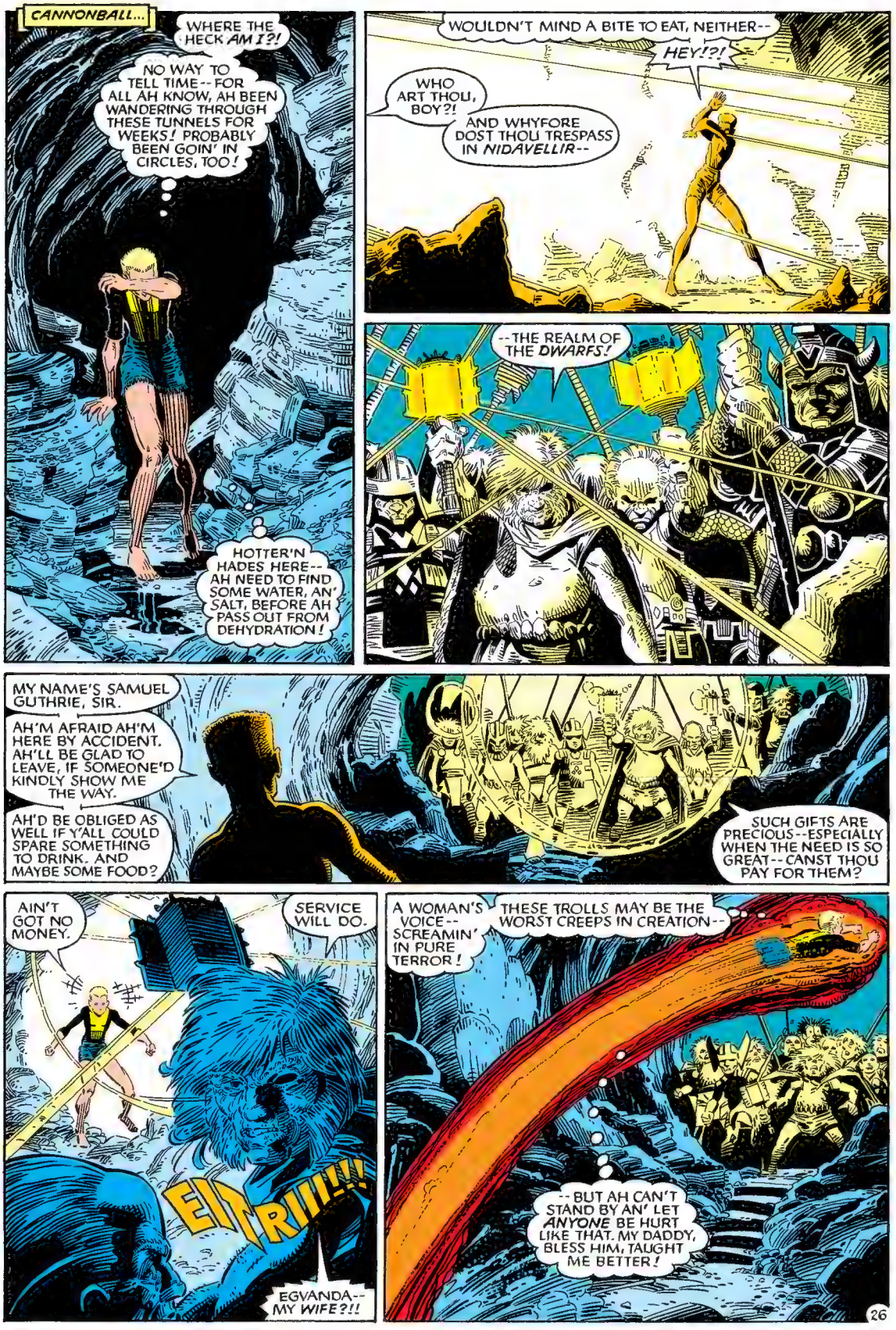

WARLOCK...
OBSERVATION: SEVERE DISRUPTION OF TELEPORTATION MATRIX HAS RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE SPACIO-TEMPORAL DISLOCATION. CURRENT WHEREABOUTS, UNKNOWN.
SELF STATUS: INTEGRAL SYSTEMS WHOLE. FUNCTION UNIMPAIRED--THANK THE MAKER--BUT LIFEGLOW REDUCED TO SUBSISTANCE LEVELS. IF SUSTENANCE NOT OBTAINED IN IMMEDIATE TIME FRAME...
...SELF WILL BECOME INERT!
SCANNING FOR FRIENDS--
--BUT LACK OF POWER LIMITS SELF'S RANGE.
SCANNING AS WELL FOR CONSUMABLE ORGANICS.
ROAR!
CONFLICT! IS THIS ENTITY SENTIENT? IT DOES NOT RESPOND TO SELF'S TRANSMISSIONS.
CHIEFRIEND DANI SAID SELF WAS NEVER TO CONSUME SUCH LARGE-FORM ORGANICS WITHOUT HER PERMISSION. BUT SHE IS NOT HERE TO ASK...
...AND ENTITY'S ATTITUDE IS HOSTILE.
FORGIVE SELF, DANI.
ENTITY INFECTED WITH GENETIC VIRUS.
TRANSFORMATION TO TECHNO-ORGANIC FORM COMPLETE. LIFEGLOW ABSORBED. ENTITY RENDERED INERT.
SELF FULLY FUNCTIONAL!

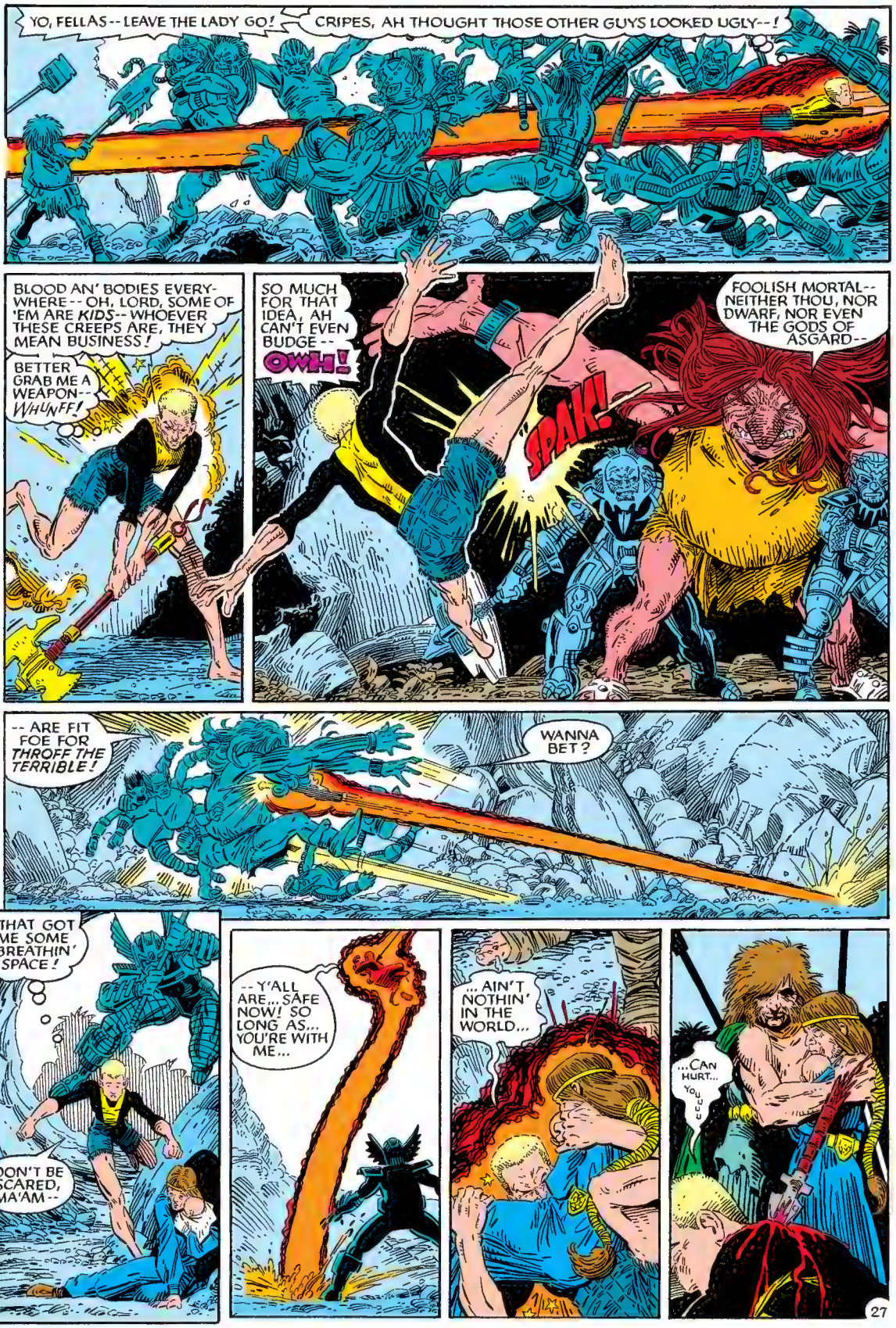

STRANGER, WHO ART THOU?
AND WHEREFORE DOST THOU TRESPASS IN THE DOMAIN OF HELA?
Uh--SELF'S DESIGNATION IS WARLOCK.
QUERY: WHERE IS SELF?
THIS BE HEL-- THE DWELLING PLACE OF THOSE WHO DIE DISHONORABLE OR COWARDLY DEATHS, WHO LACK THE COURAGE AND MERIT TO WIN FOR THEMSELVES A PLACE IN VALHALLA.
WHICH THEN ART THOU?
COWARD.
EVEN WITH INTEGRAL SYSTEMS FUNCTIONING AT PEAK EFFECIENCY, LOCATING SELF'S FRIENDS WILL BE A REAL LONGSHOT.
IN THAT CASE, SELF HAD BETTER LOOK THE PART.
QUERY: IS THIS HUMOR?
WHAT BETTER PROOF COULD SELF PROVIDE...
... THAN BY FLEEING...
...TO SEEK SELF'S FRIENDS!
POOR, CONFUSED CHANGELING-- TO POSSESS SUCH INTELLECT AND ABILITIES...
...YET REMAIN SO TOTALLY UNAWARE OF HIS TRUE NATURE.
PERHAPS, WHEN NEXT WE MEET...
...THE GODDESS OF DEATH SHALL SHOW HIM--
-- BEFORE CLAIMING HIM FOR HER VERY OWN!


SUNSPOT...
C'MON, VIGDAL!
A CROWN ON VIGDAL!
WHY DON'T WE SLIP AWAY...?
TEN ON THE SHADOW-SKIN!
MORE BEER!
DOESN'T HE WASH? IS HE DISEASED?
HE'S ONLY A BOY!
INDEEE!
I THINK HE'S CUTE!
I WIN!
SLAM!
CHEAT!
I'D HAVE BEATEN THEE HADST THOU NOT USED FOUL MAGICK!
MAYHAP, THOU'RT A DEMON!
WHACK!
THIS COULD BE TROUBLE. THESE OTHERS ARE TAKING THE CHARGE SERIOUSLY.
WHAT DO I DO?! I CAN'T FIGHT THEM ALL-- eh?!!
COME, WENCH!
BETTER BY FAR TO GRANT THINE AFFECTIONS...
...TO A WARRIOR-BORN...
... RATHER THAN SOME PIPSQUEAK TROLL!
THE LADY ISN'T INTERESTED, VIGDAL. LET HER GO.
MAKE ME.


WHAMMO!
MY PLEASURE!
HE HIT VIGDAL!
GOOD FOR HIM!
MADONNA!
I SEEM TO HAVE STARTED SOMETHING!
AT WHICH POINT, WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM...
...THINGS TEND TO GET A BIT HECTIC.
BAM!
WHAM!
SOCK!
OOF!
CRASH!
HOWEVER, WHEN THE DUST SETTLES, TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE...
I WON?!?
MY HERO!!!
CAN THIS BE?
EVEN ORDINARY ASGARDIANS ARE REPUTED TO BE FAR STRONGER THAN EARTH-FOLK. AS SUNSPOT, I MAY BE A MATCH FOR ONE OR TWO-- BUT NOT THIS ENTIRE MOB.
SUPERB! WHAT STYLE!! WHAT PANACHE!!!
LONG HAVE I SOUGHT SUCH A LAD AS THEE, TO KEEP ORDER IN MY ESTABLISHMENT--!
UNLESS-- MY SUPER-STRENGTH DERIVES FROM SUNLIGHT. PERHAPS ASGARD'S SUN IS MORE POWERFUL THAN EARTH'S-- AND IS SOMEHOW AFFECTING ME?!
WHATEVER THE CAUSE, I'M NOT ABOUT TO ARGUE WITH THE RESULT!
LADIES, I HOPE THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF SOME BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIPS!


MAGMA...
PLEASE-- YOU'VE ALL BEEN SO VERY KIND--
-- BUT CAN'T WE GO TO FIND MY FRIENDS?
PROMISED, WE WOULD!
BUT FIRST, BIGPRETTY-- PARTY!
WELL, I AM HUNGRY...
... AND EVERY-THING DOES SMELL DIVINE.
THOU MUST NEEDS KEEP UP THY STRENGTH, SWEETING...
... FOR THE ORDEAL TO COME.
ALL RIGHT, THEN-- JUST A...
...SIP-- uhmm, THIS IS DELICIOUS!
"THAT'S THE SPIRIT, SUNHAIR-FIRESOUL--
"--EAT...
"... DRINK...
"...AND MAKE MERRY...
"...FOR TOMORROW...
...THY HUMANITY WILL SURELY DIE!


CANNONBALL...
WHERE THE HECK AM I?!
NO WAY TO TELL TIME-- FOR ALL AH KNOW, AH BEEN WANDERING THROUGH THESE TUNNELS FOR WEEKS! PROBABLY BEEN GOIN' IN CIRCLES, TOO!
HOTTER'N HADES HERE-- AH NEED TO FIND SOME WATER, AN' SALT, BEFORE AH PASS OUT FROM DEHYDRATION!
WOULDN'T MIND A BITE TO EAT, NEITHER--
HEY!?!
WHO ART THOU, BOY?!
AND WHYFORE DOST THOU TRESPASS IN NIDAVELLIR--
--THE REALM OF THE DWARFS!
MY NAME'S SAMUEL GUTHRIE, SIR.
AH'M AFRAID AH'M HERE BY ACCIDENT. AH'LL BE GLAD TO LEAVE, IF SOMEONE'D KINDLY SHOW ME THE WAY.
AH'D BE OBLIGED AS WELL IF Y'ALL COULD SPARE SOMETHING TO DRINK. AND MAYBE SOME FOOD?
SUCH GIFTS ARE PRECIOUS--ESPECIALLY WHEN THE NEED IS SO GREAT--CANST THOU PAY FOR THEM?
AIN'T GOT NO MONEY.
SERVICE WILL DO.
EGVANDA--
EGVANDA--MY WIFE?!!
A WOMAN'S VOICE-- SCREAMIN' IN PURE TERROR!
THESE TROLLS MAY BE THE WORST CREEPS IN CREATION--
--BUT AH CAN'T STAND BY AN' LET ANYONE BE HURT LIKE THAT. MY DADDY, BLESS HIM, TAUGHT ME BETTER!


YO, FELLAS -- LEAVE THE LADY GO!
CRIPES, AH THOUGHT THOSE OTHER GUYS LOOKED UGLY--!
BLOOD AN' BODIES EVERYWHERE -- OH, LORD, SOME OF 'EM ARE KIDS -- WHOEVER THESE CREEPS ARE, THEY MEAN BUSINESS!
BETTER GRAB ME A WEAPON -- WHUNFF!
SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA, AH CAN'T EVEN BUDGE -- OWH!
SPAK!
FOOLISH MORTAL -- NEITHER THOU, NOR DWARF, NOR EVEN THE GODS OF ASGARD --
-- ARE FIT FOE FOR THROFF THE TERRIBLE!
WANNA BET?
THAT GOT ME SOME BREATHIN' SPACE!
DON'T BE SCARED, MA'AM --
-- Y'ALL ARE... SAFE NOW! SO LONG AS... YOU'RE WITH ME...
... AIN'T NOTHIN' IN THE WORLD...
...CAN HURT... YOU
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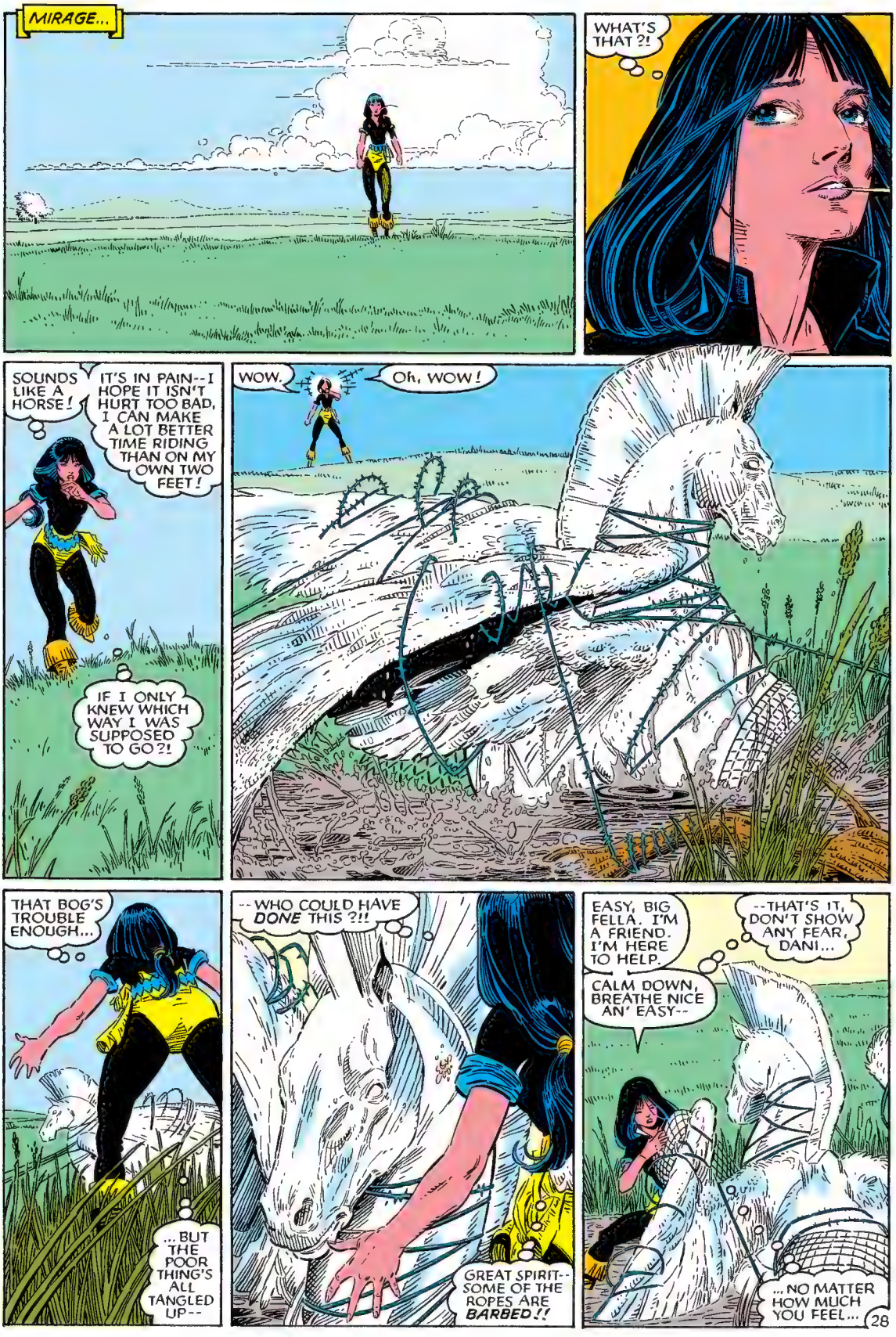
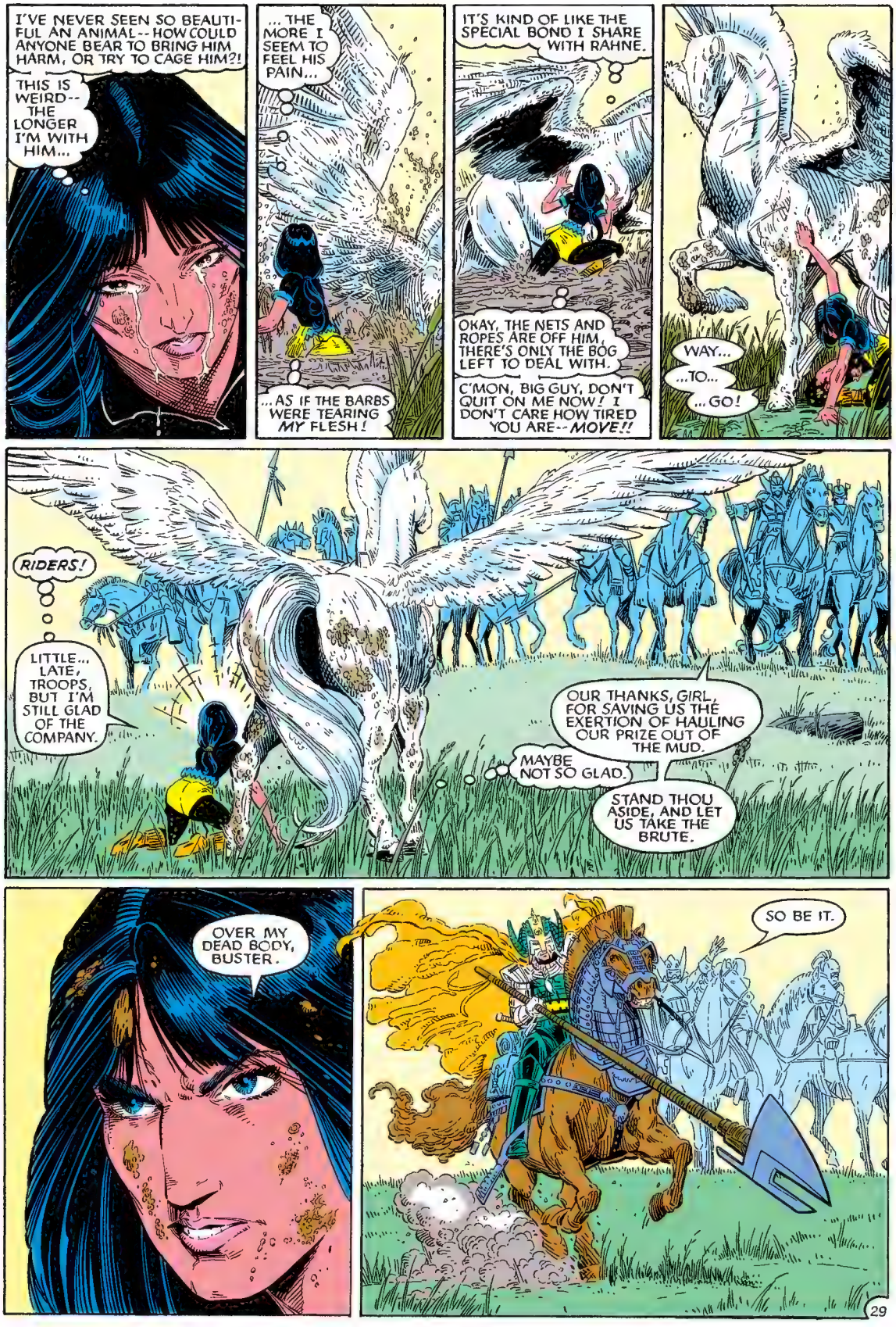
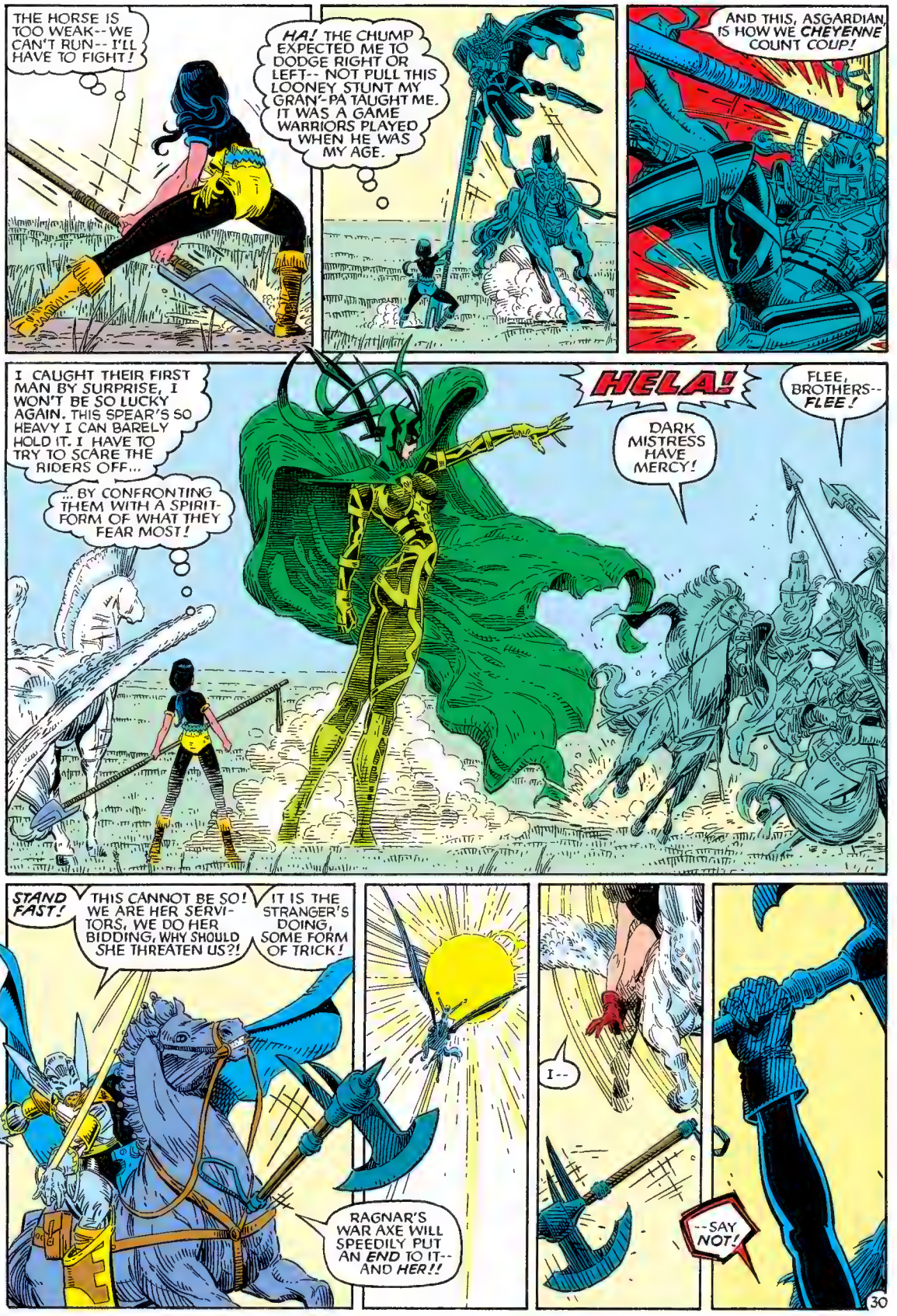

MIRAGE...
WHAT'S THAT ?!
SOUNDS LIKE A HORSE!
IT'S IN PAIN--I HOPE IT ISN'T HURT TOO BAD, I CAN MAKE A LOT BETTER TIME RIDING THAN ON MY OWN TWO FEET!
IF I ONLY KNEW WHICH WAY I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO?!
WOW.
Oh, WOW!
THAT BOG'S TROUBLE ENOUGH...
...BUT THE POOR THING'S ALL TANGLED UP--
--WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS ?!!
GREAT SPIRIT--SOME OF THE ROPES ARE BARBED!!
EASY, BIG FELLA. I'M A FRIEND. I'M HERE TO HELP.
CALM DOWN, BREATHE NICE AN' EASY--
--THAT'S IT, DON'T SHOW ANY FEAR, DANI...
...NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU FEEL...


I'VE NEVER SEEN SO BEAUTIFUL AN ANIMAL-- HOW COULD ANYONE BEAR TO BRING HIM HARM, OR TRY TO CAGE HIM?!
THIS IS WEIRD-- THE LONGER I'M WITH HIM...
... THE MORE I SEEM TO FEEL HIS PAIN...
...AS IF THE BARBS WERE TEARING MY FLESH!
IT'S KIND OF LIKE THE SPECIAL BOND I SHARE WITH RAHNE.
OKAY, THE NETS AND ROPES ARE OFF HIM, THERE'S ONLY THE BOG LEFT TO DEAL WITH.
C'MON, BIG GUY, DON'T QUIT ON ME NOW! I DON'T CARE HOW TIRED YOU ARE-- MOVE!!
WAY...
...TO...
...GO!
RIDERS!
LITTLE... LATE, TROOPS, BUT I'M STILL GLAD OF THE COMPANY.
OUR THANKS, GIRL, FOR SAVING US THE EXERTION OF HAULING OUR PRIZE OUT OF THE MUD.
MAYBE NOT SO GLAD.
STAND THOU ASIDE, AND LET US TAKE THE BRUTE.
OVER MY DEAD BODY, BUSTER.
SO BE IT.


THE HORSE IS TOO WEAK--WE CAN'T RUN-- I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT!
HA! THE CHUMP EXPECTED ME TO DODGE RIGHT OR LEFT-- NOT PULL THIS LOONEY STUNT MY GRAN'-PA TAUGHT ME. IT WAS A GAME WARRIORS PLAYED WHEN HE WAS MY AGE.
AND THIS, ASGARDIAN, IS HOW WE CHEYENNE COUNT COUP!
I CAUGHT THEIR FIRST MAN BY SURPRISE, I WON'T BE SO LUCKY AGAIN. THIS SPEAR'S SO HEAVY I CAN BARELY HOLD IT. I HAVE TO TRY TO SCARE THE RIDERS OFF...
...BY CONFRONTING THEM WITH A SPIRIT-FORM OF WHAT THEY FEAR MOST!
HELA!
DARK MISTRESS HAVE MERCY!
FLEE, BROTHERS-- FLEE!
STAND FAST!
THIS CANNOT BE SO! WE ARE HER SERVITORS, WE DO HER BIDDING, WHY SHOULD SHE THREATEN US?!
IT IS THE STRANGER'S DOING, SOME FORM OF TRICK!
RAGNAR'S WAR AXE WILL SPEEDILY PUT AN END TO IT-- AND HER!!
I--
--SAY NOT!

YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE, WARRIORS.
I DO NOT KNOW WHY YOU HAVE COME--
--NOR DO I CARE.
I SUGGEST YOU DEPART...
...WHILE YOU ARE ABLE.
THANKS FOR THE ASSIST. I FIGURED I WAS A GONER.
THOU ART A STRANGER.
Uh-huh--FROM EARTH. MY NAME'S DANI MOONSTAR.
MIDGARD?!! THOU ART MORTAL BORN-- MOONSTAR, HAVE A CARE! THESE WINGED STALLIONS CAN BE DANGEROUS...
NOT THIS ONE. NOT TO ME.
I FEEL LIKE WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER ALL OUR LIVES.
I AM MIST. MY SISTERS AND I -- AND OUR HERD-- LIVE NEARBY...
...WOULDST THOU CARE TO JOIN US?
I'D LOVE TO!
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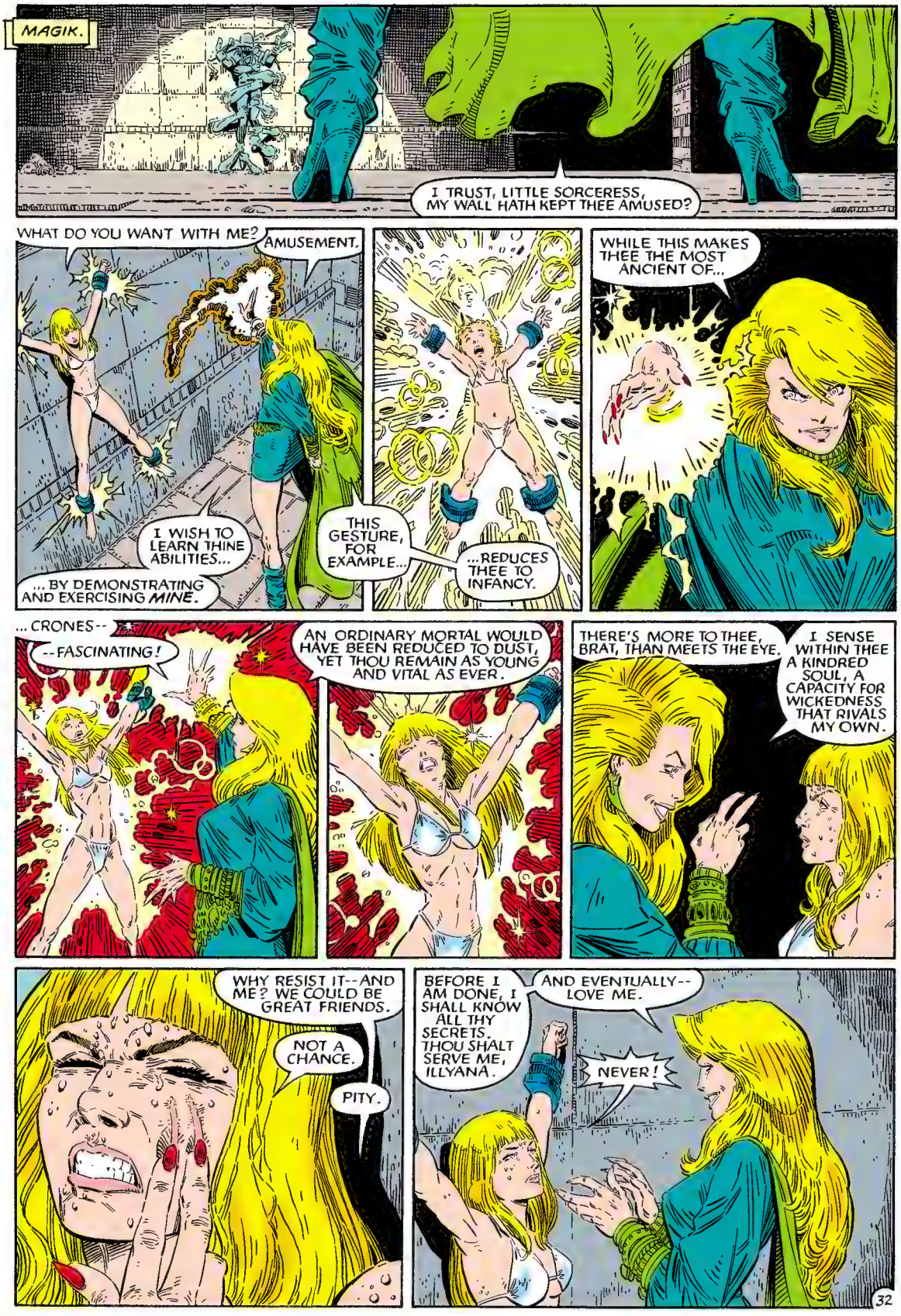
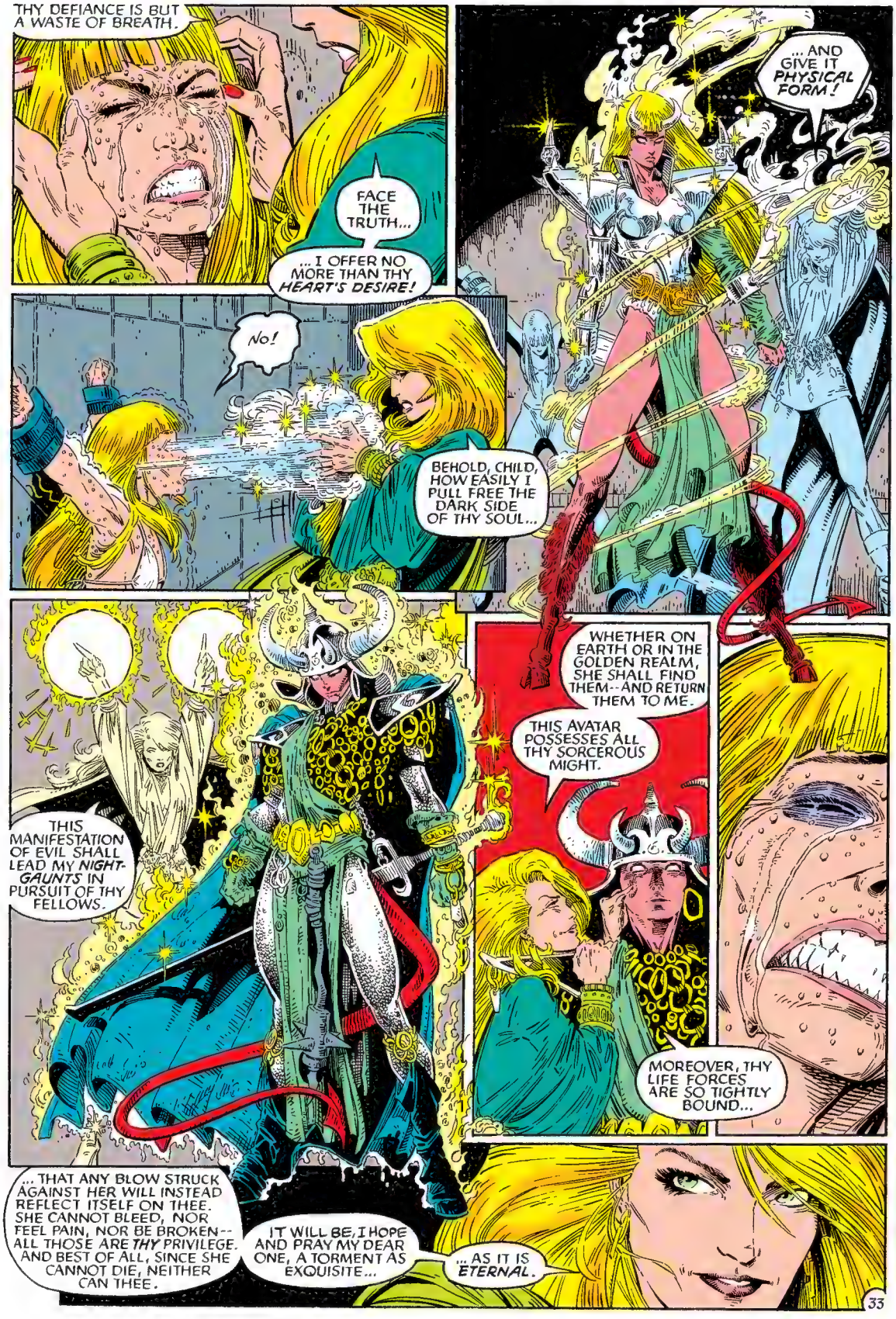
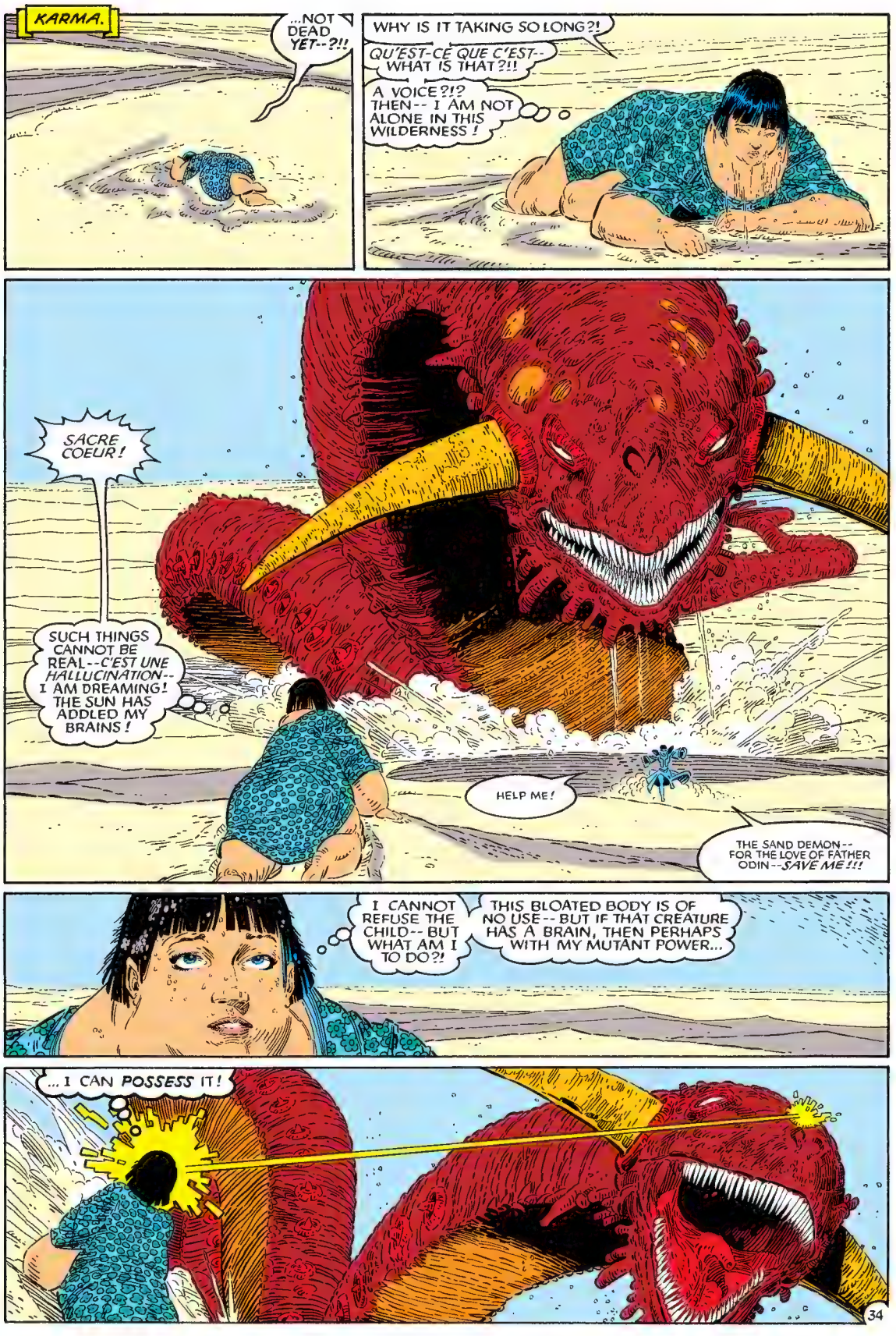
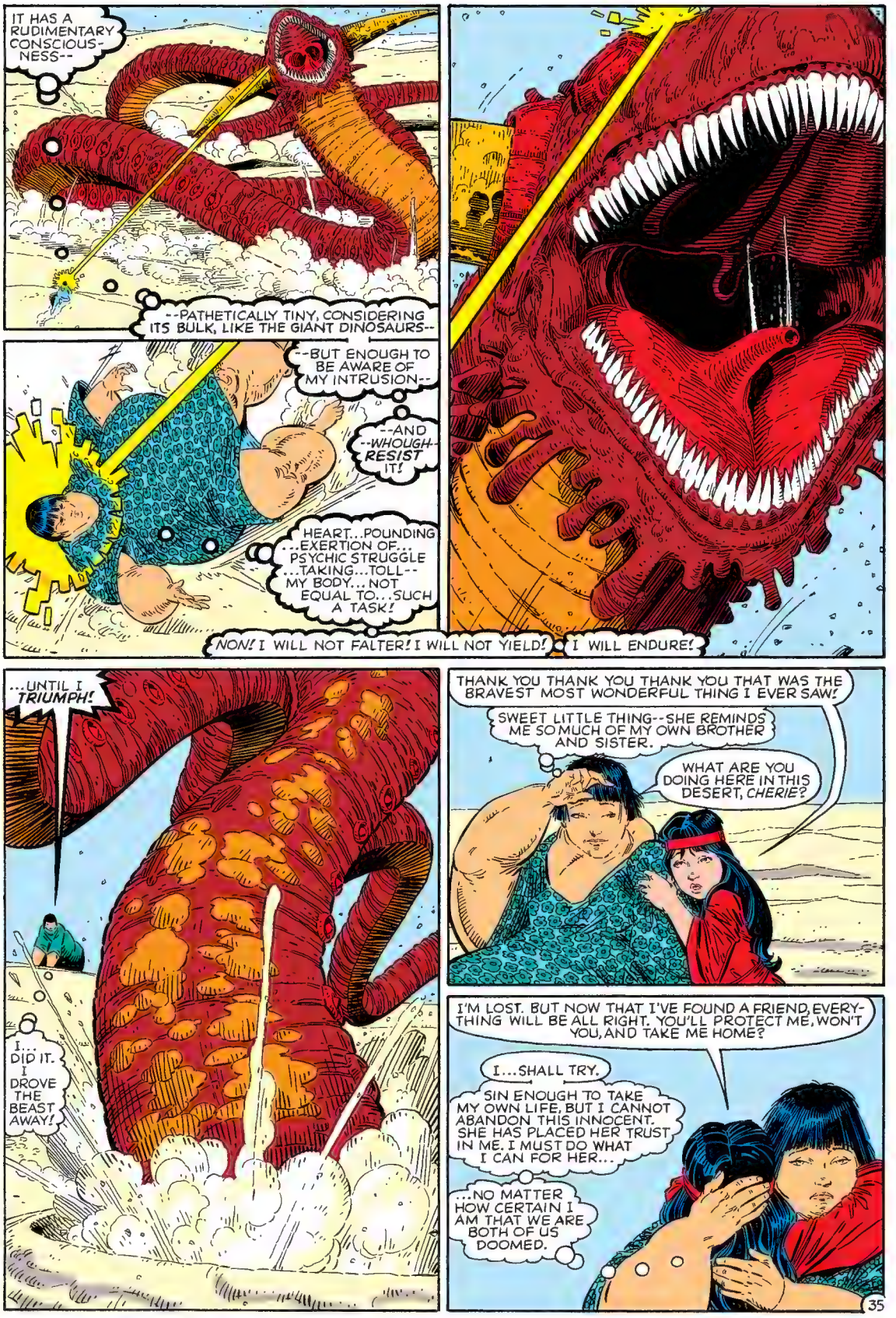
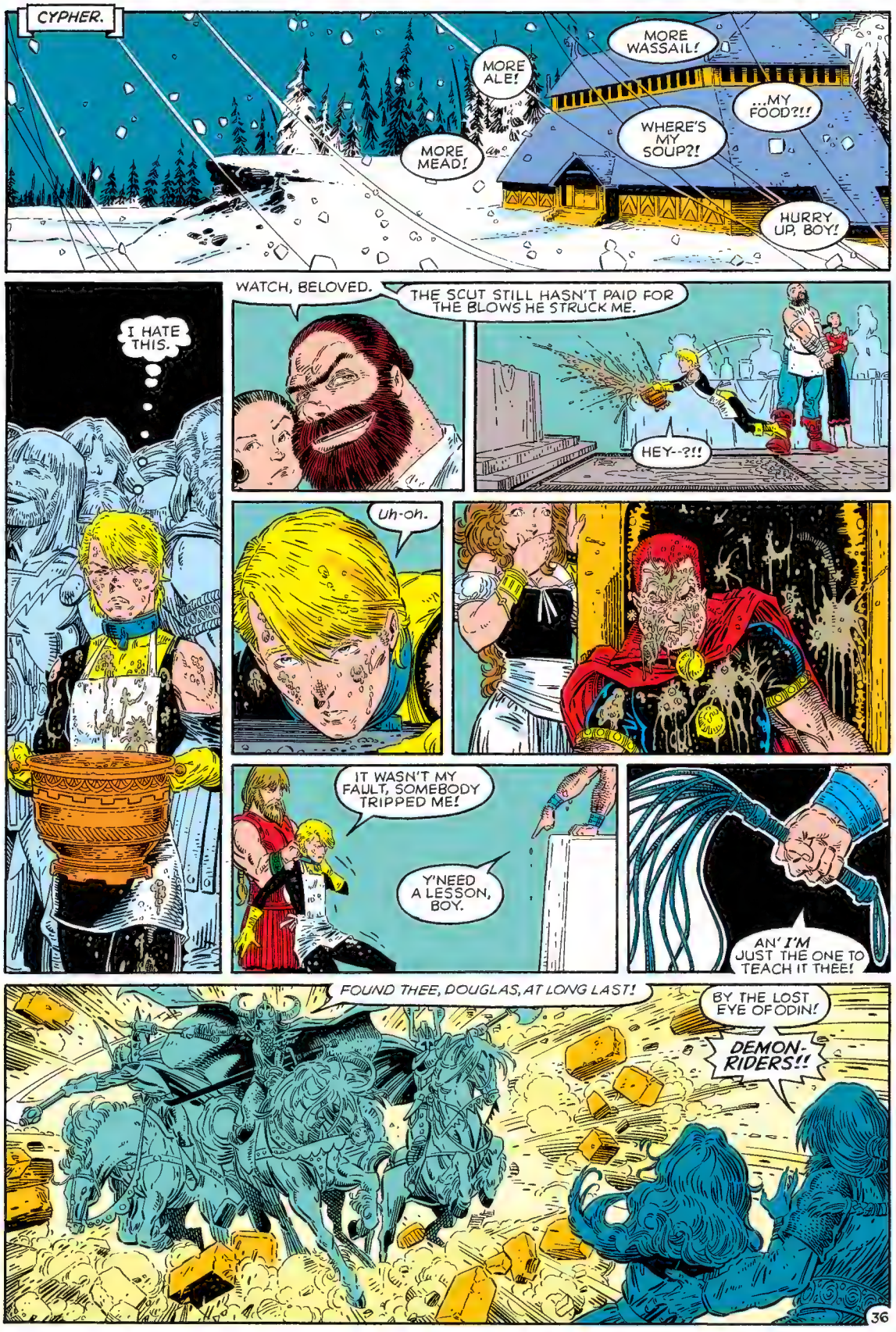
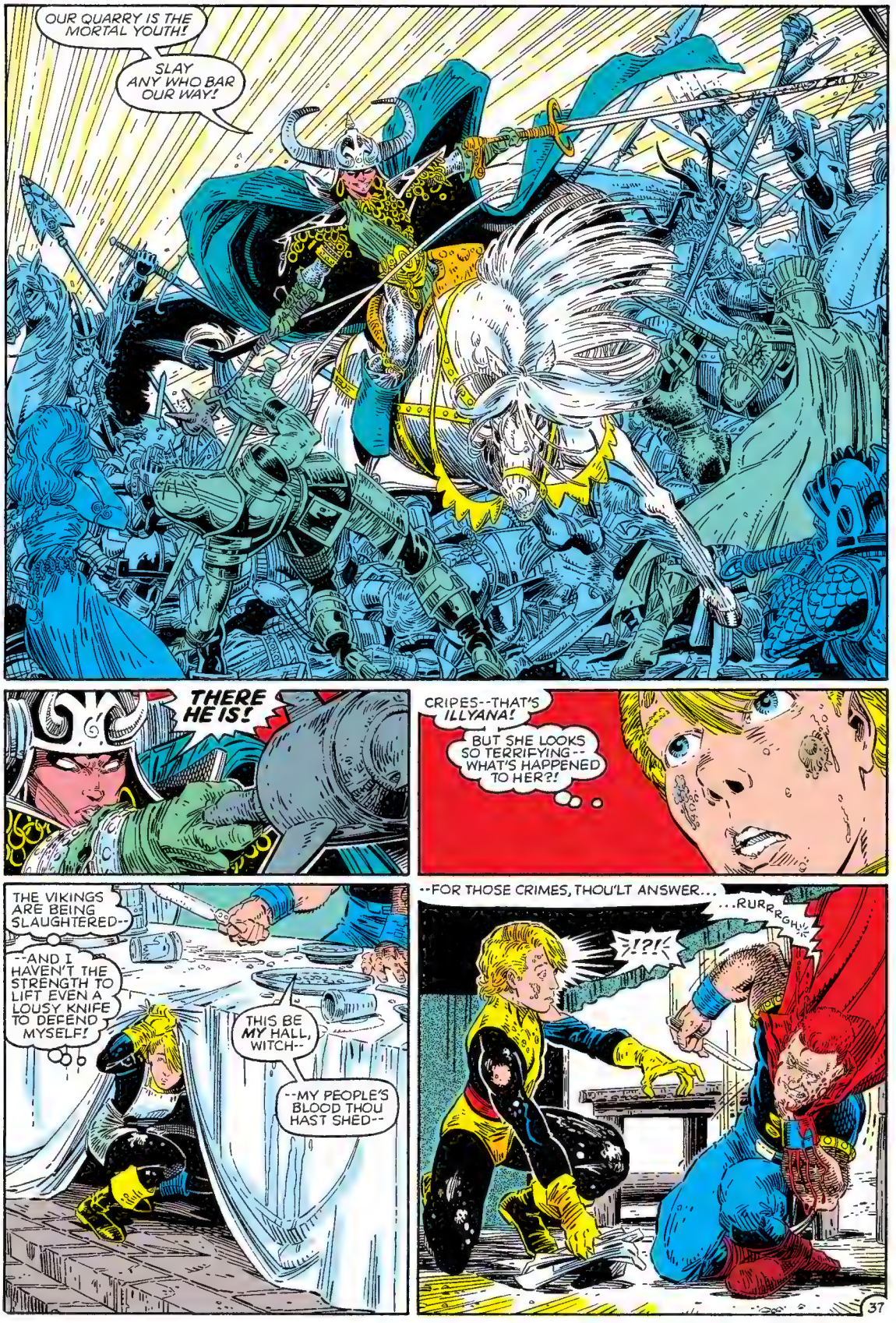

MAGIK.
I TRUST, LITTLE SORCERESS, MY WALL HATH KEPT THEE AMUSED?
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
AMUSEMENT.
I WISH TO LEARN THINE ABILITIES...
... BY DEMONSTRATING AND EXERCISING MINE.
THIS GESTURE, FOR EXAMPLE...
...REDUCES THEE TO INFANCY.
WHILE THIS MAKES THEE THE MOST ANCIENT OF...
... CRONES--
--FASCINATING!
AN ORDINARY MORTAL WOULD HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO DUST, YET THOU REMAIN AS YOUNG AND VITAL AS EVER.
THERE'S MORE TO THEE, BRAT, THAN MEETS THE EYE.
I SENSE WITHIN THEE A KINDRED SOUL, A CAPACITY FOR WICKEDNESS THAT RIVALS MY OWN.
WHY RESIST IT--AND ME? WE COULD BE GREAT FRIENDS.
NOT A CHANCE.
PITY.
BEFORE I AM DONE, I SHALL KNOW ALL THY SECRETS. THOU SHALT SERVE ME, ILLYANA.
AND EVENTUALLY--LOVE ME.
NEVER!

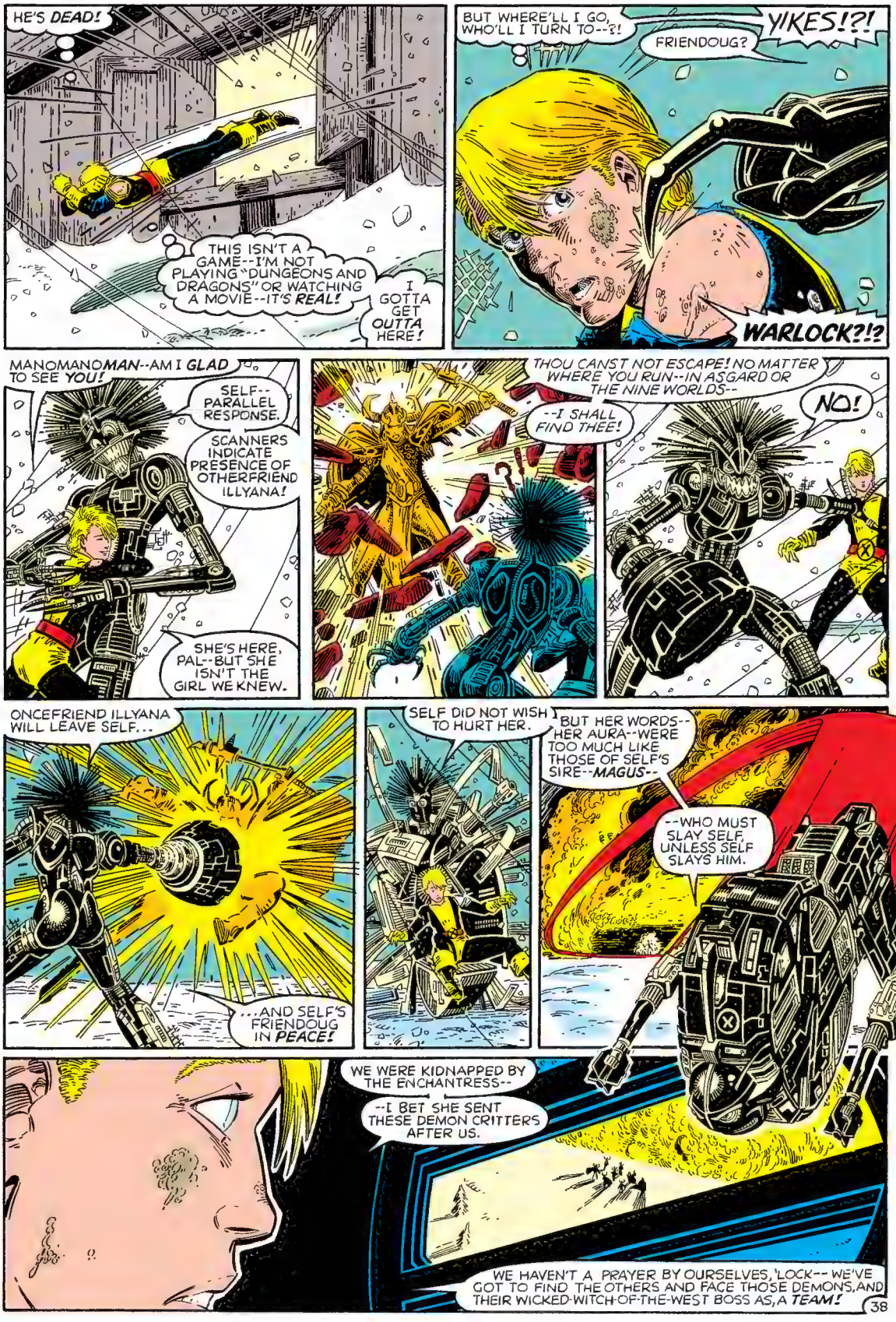

THY DEFIANCE IS BUT A WASTE OF BREATH.
FACE THE TRUTH...
... I OFFER NO MORE THAN THY HEART'S DESIRE!
... AND GIVE IT PHYSICAL FORM!
No!
BEHOLD, CHILD, HOW EASILY I PULL FREE THE DARK SIDE OF THY SOUL...
THIS MANIFESTATION OF EVIL SHALL LEAD MY NIGHT-GAUNTS IN PURSUIT OF THY FELLOWS.
WHETHER ON EARTH OR IN THE GOLDEN REALM, SHE SHALL FIND THEM--AND RETURN THEM TO ME.
THIS AVATAR POSSESSES ALL THY SORCEROUS MIGHT.
MOREOVER, THY LIFE FORCES ARE SO TIGHTLY BOUND...
... THAT ANY BLOW STRUCK AGAINST HER WILL INSTEAD REFLECT ITSELF ON THEE. SHE CANNOT BLEED, NOR FEEL PAIN, NOR BE BROKEN--ALL THOSE ARE THY PRIVILEGE. AND BEST OF ALL, SINCE SHE CANNOT DIE, NEITHER CAN THEE.
IT WILL BE, I HOPE AND PRAY MY DEAR ONE, A TORMENT AS EXQUISITE...
... AS IT IS ETERNAL.

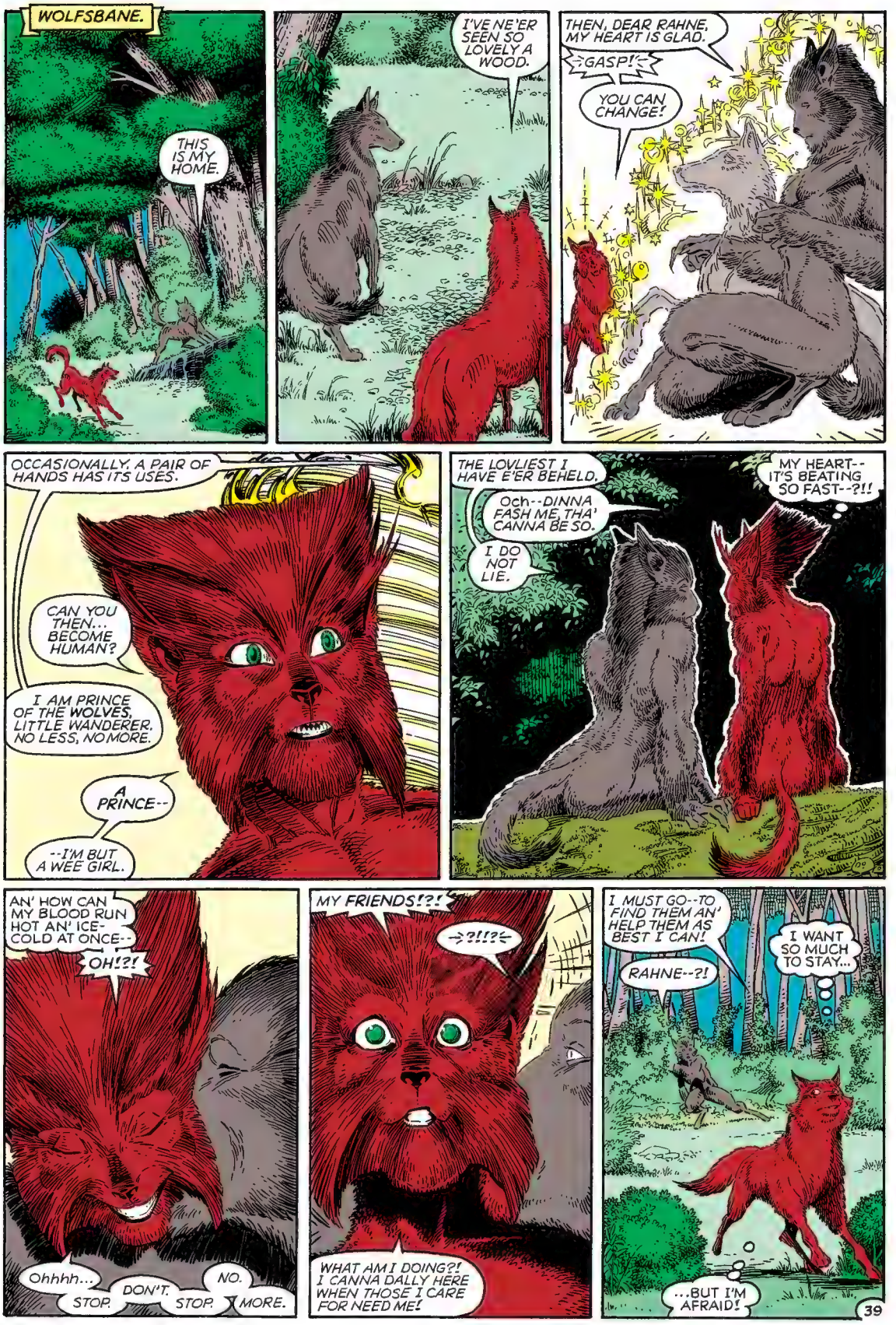

KARMA.
...NOT DEAD YET--?!!
WHY IS IT TAKING SO LONG?!
QU'EST-CE QUE C'EST-- WHAT IS THAT?!!
A VOICE?!? THEN-- I AM NOT ALONE IN THIS WILDERNESS!
SACRE COEUR!
SUCH THINGS CANNOT BE REAL--C'EST UNE HALLUCINATION-- I AM DREAMING! THE SUN HAS ADDLED MY BRAINS!
HELP ME!
THE SAND DEMON-- FOR THE LOVE OF FATHER ODIN--SAVE ME!!!
I CANNOT REFUSE THE CHILD-- BUT WHAT AM I TO DO?!
THIS BLOATED BODY IS OF NO USE-- BUT IF THAT CREATURE HAS A BRAIN, THEN PERHAPS WITH MY MUTANT POWER...
...I CAN POSSESS IT!

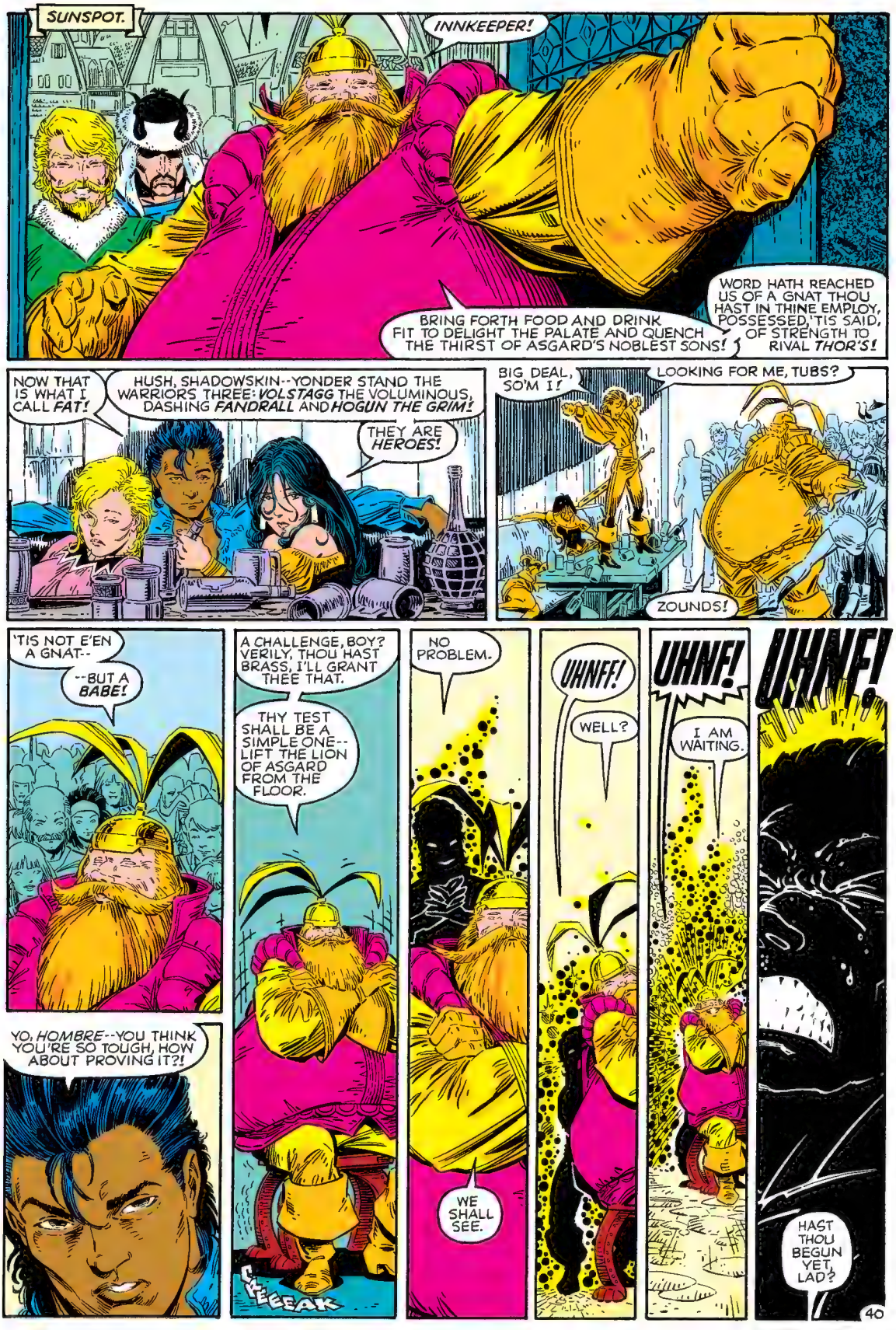

IT HAS A RUDIMENTARY CONSCIOUS-NESS--
--PATHETICALLY TINY, CONSIDERING ITS BULK, LIKE THE GIANT DINOSAURS--
--BUT ENOUGH TO BE AWARE OF MY INTRUSION--
--AND --WHOUGH- RESIST IT!
HEART...POUNDING ...EXERTION OF... PSYCHIC STRUGGLE ...TAKING...TOLL-- MY BODY...NOT EQUAL TO...SUCH A TASK!
NON! I WILL NOT FALTER! I WILL NOT YIELD! I WILL ENDURE!
...UNTIL I TRIUMPH!
I... DID IT. I DROVE THE BEAST AWAY!
THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THAT WAS THE BRAVEST MOST WONDERFUL THING I EVER SAW!
SWEET LITTLE THING--SHE REMINDS ME SO MUCH OF MY OWN BROTHER AND SISTER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE IN THIS DESERT, CHERIE?
I'M LOST. BUT NOW THAT I'VE FOUND A FRIEND, EVERY-THING WILL BE ALL RIGHT. YOU'LL PROTECT ME, WON'T YOU, AND TAKE ME HOME?
I...SHALL TRY.
SIN ENOUGH TO TAKE MY OWN LIFE, BUT I CANNOT ABANDON THIS INNOCENT. SHE HAS PLACED HER TRUST IN ME. I MUST DO WHAT I CAN FOR HER...
...NO MATTER HOW CERTAIN I AM THAT WE ARE BOTH OF US DOOMED.

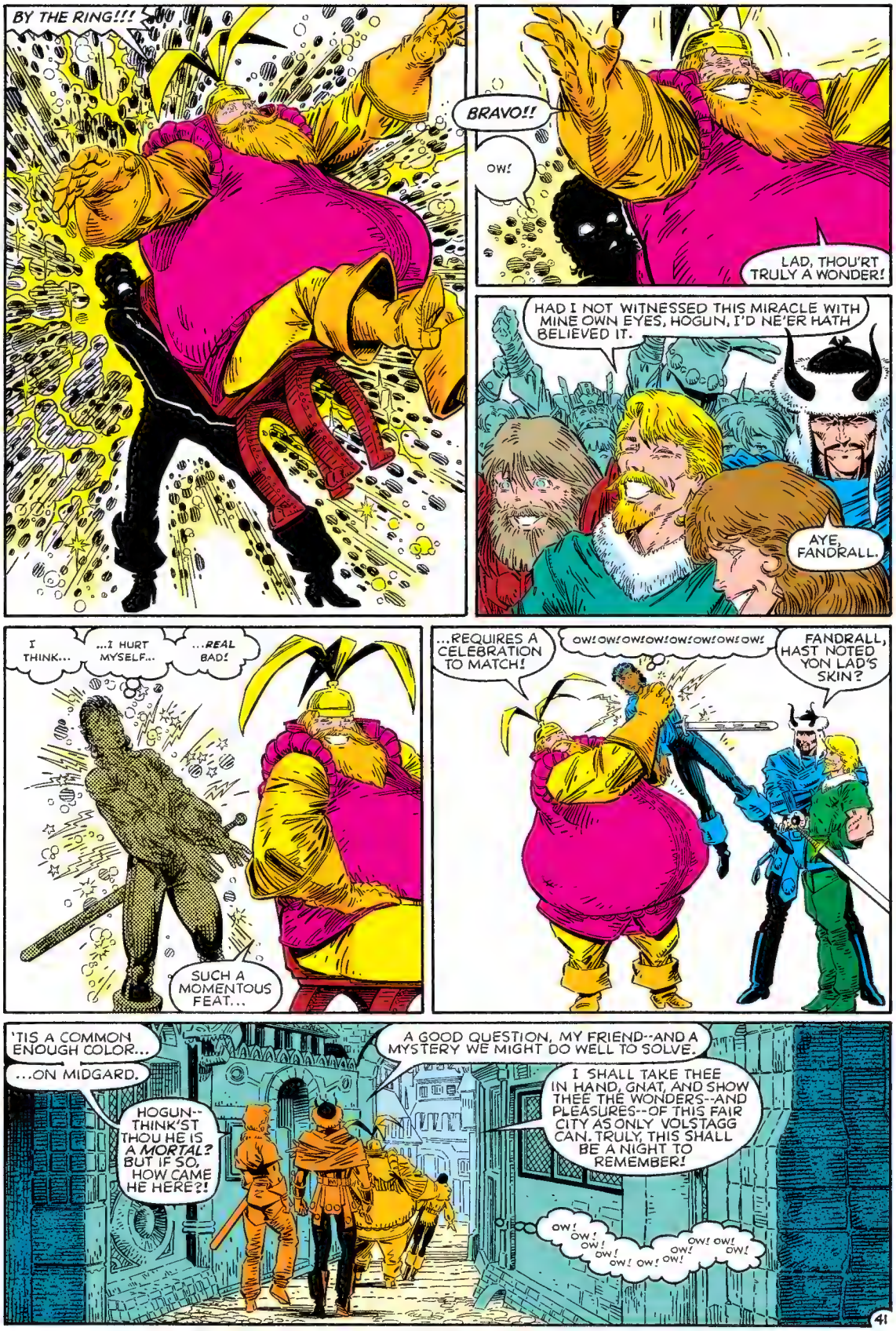

CYPHER.
MORE ALE!
MORE WASSAIL!
...MY FOOD?!!
WHERE'S MY SOUP?!
MORE MEAD!
HURRY UP, BOY!
I HATE THIS.
WATCH, BELOVED.
THE SCUT STILL HASN'T PAID FOR THE BLOWS HE STRUCK ME.
HEY--?!!
Uh-oh.
IT WASN'T MY FAULT, SOMEBODY TRIPPED ME!
Y'NEED A LESSON, BOY.
AN' I'M JUST THE ONE TO TEACH IT THEE!
FOUND THEE, DOUGLAS, AT LONG LAST!
BY THE LOST EYE OF ODIN!
DEMON-RIDERS!!

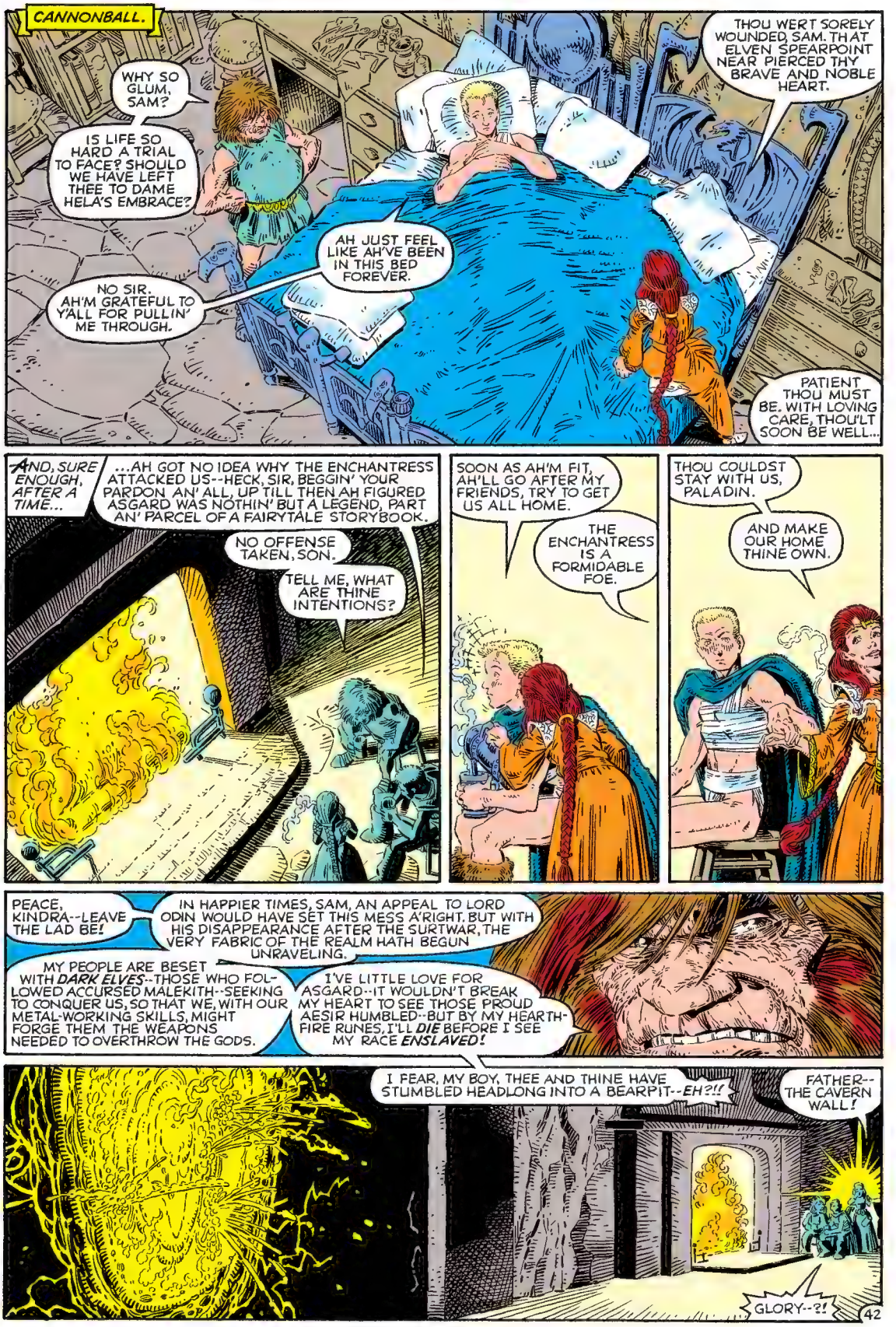

OUR QUARRY IS THE MORTAL YOUTH!
SLAY ANY WHO BAR OUR WAY!
THERE HE IS!
CRIPES--THAT'S ILLYANA!
BUT SHE LOOKS SO TERRIFYING-- WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER?!
THE VIKINGS ARE BEING SLAUGHTERED--
--AND I HAVEN'T THE STRENGTH TO LIFT EVEN A LOUSY KNIFE TO DEFEND MYSELF!
THIS BE MY HALL, WITCH--
--MY PEOPLE'S BLOOD THOU HAST SHED--
--FOR THOSE CRIMES, THOU'LT ANSWER...
...RURRRGH!
?!?!

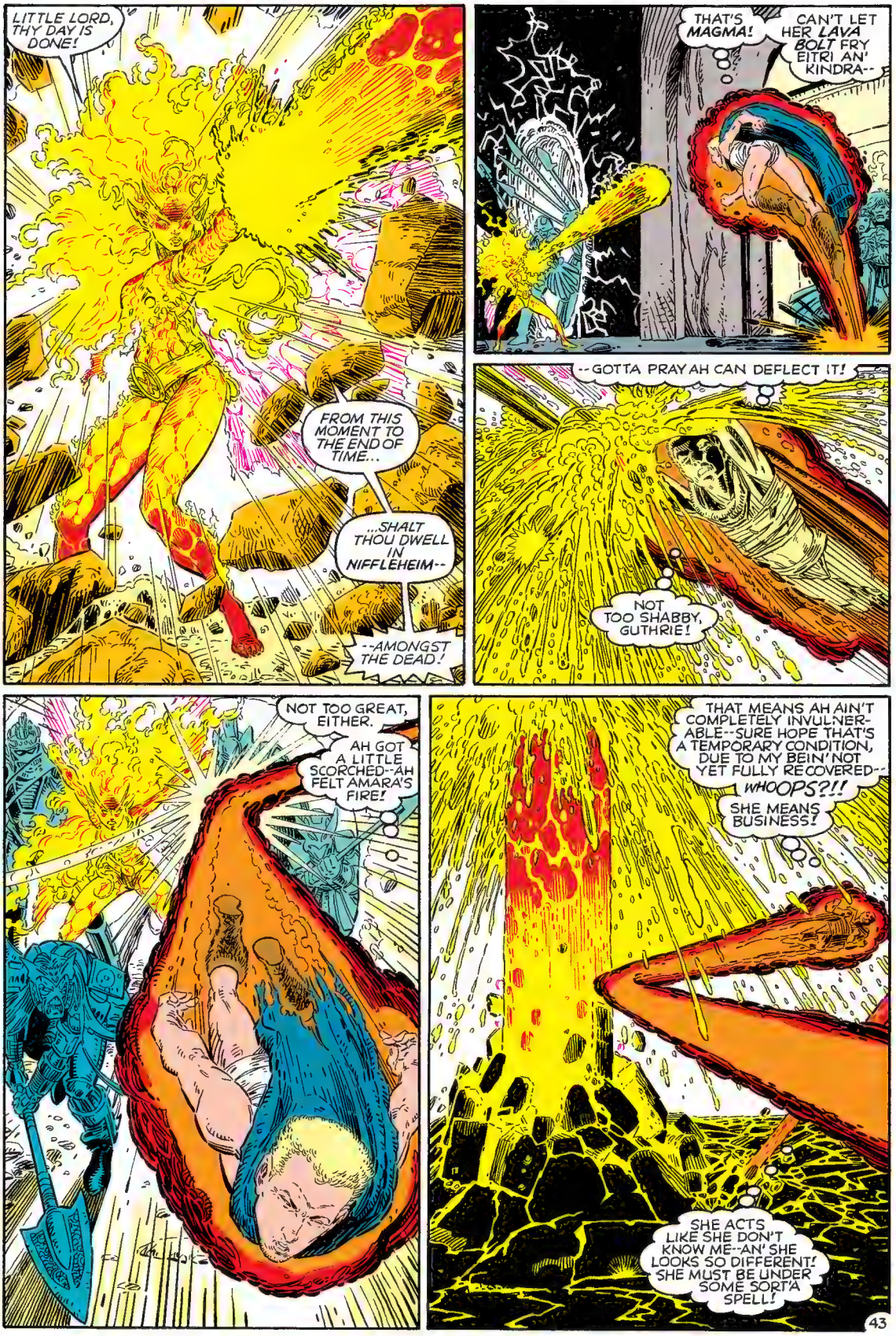

HE'S DEAD!
THIS ISN'T A GAME--I'M NOT PLAYING "DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS" OR WATCHING A MOVIE--IT'S REAL!
I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!
BUT WHERE'LL I GO, WHO'LL I TURN TO--?!
FRIENDOUG?
YIKES!?!
WARLOCK?!?
MANOMANOMAN--AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
SELF--PARALLEL RESPONSE.
SCANNERS INDICATE PRESENCE OF OTHERFRIEND ILLYANA!
SHE'S HERE, PAL--BUT SHE ISN'T THE GIRL WE KNEW.
THOU CANST NOT ESCAPE! NO MATTER WHERE YOU RUN--IN ASGARD OR THE NINE WORLDS--
--I SHALL FIND THEE!
NO!
ONCEFRIEND ILLYANA WILL LEAVE SELF...
...AND SELF'S FRIENDOUG IN PEACE!
SELF DID NOT WISH TO HURT HER.
BUT HER WORDS--HER AURA--WERE TOO MUCH LIKE THOSE OF SELF'S SIRE--MAGUS--
--WHO MUST SLAY SELF, UNLESS SELF SLAYS HIM.
WE WERE KIDNAPPED BY THE ENCHANTRESS--
--I BET SHE SENT THESE DEMON CRITTERS AFTER US.
WE HAVEN'T A PRAYER BY OURSELVES, 'LOCK--WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE OTHERS AND FACE THOSE DEMONS, AND THEIR WICKED-WITCH-OF-THE-WEST BOSS AS A TEAM!

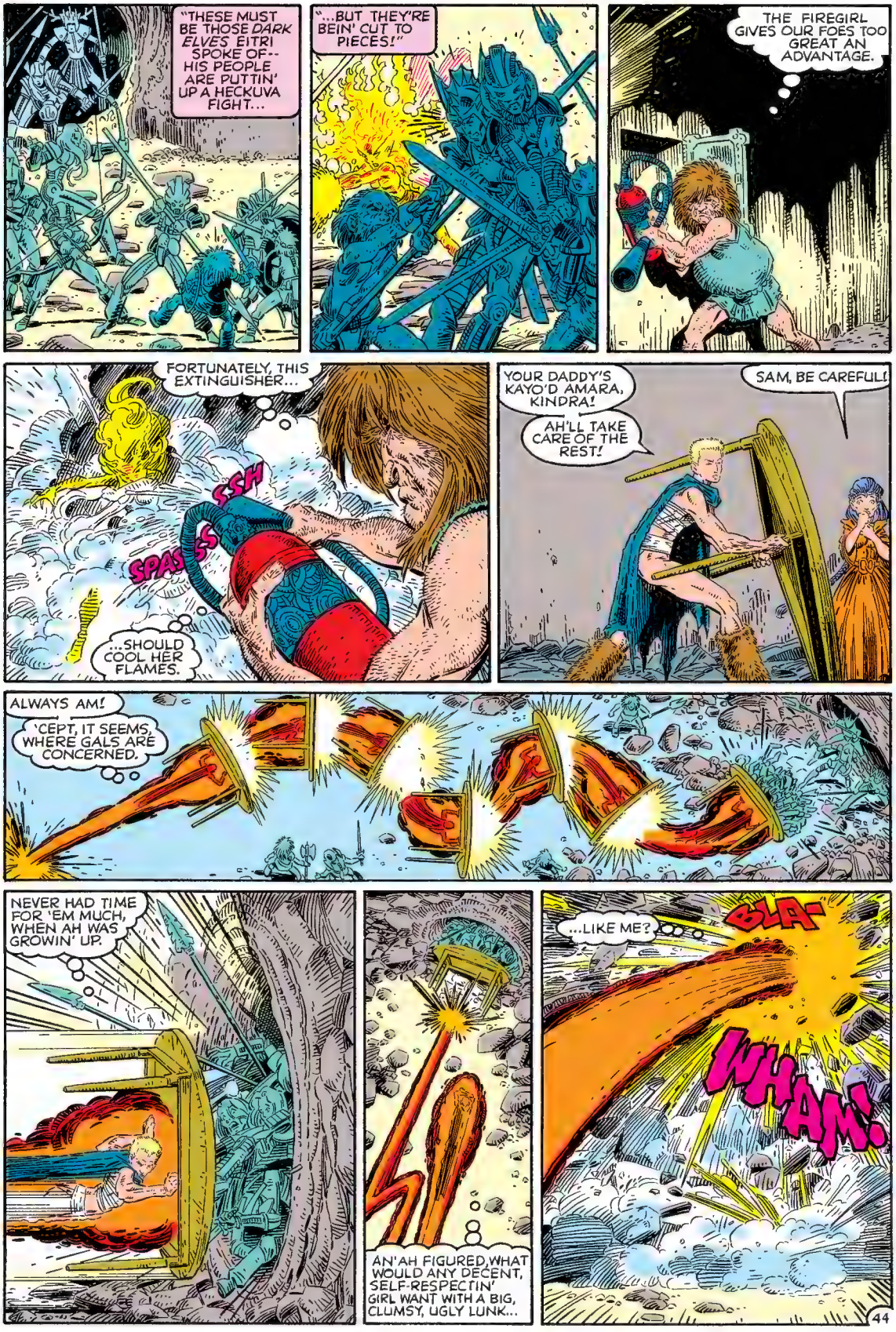

WOLFSBANE.
THIS IS MY HOME.
I'VE NE'ER SEEN SO LOVELY A WOOD.
THEN, DEAR RAHNE, MY HEART IS GLAD.
GASP!
YOU CAN CHANGE!
OCCASIONALLY, A PAIR OF HANDS HAS ITS USES.
CAN YOU THEN... BECOME HUMAN?
I AM PRINCE OF THE WOLVES, LITTLE WANDERER. NO LESS, NO MORE.
A PRINCE--
--I'M BUT A WEE GIRL.
THE LOVLIEST I HAVE E'ER BEHELD.
Och--DINNA FASH ME, THA' CANNA BE SO.
I DO NOT LIE.
MY HEART-- IT'S BEATING SO FAST--?!!
AN' HOW CAN MY BLOOD RUN HOT AN' ICE-COLD AT ONCE--
OH!?!
Ohhhh...
DON'T. STOP.
NO. STOP.
MORE.
MY FRIENDS!?!
?!!?
WHAT AM I DOING?! I CANNA DALLY HERE WHEN THOSE I CARE FOR NEED ME!
I MUST GO--TO FIND THEM AN' HELP THEM AS BEST I CAN!
RAHNE--?!
I WANT SO MUCH TO STAY...
...BUT I'M AFRAID!

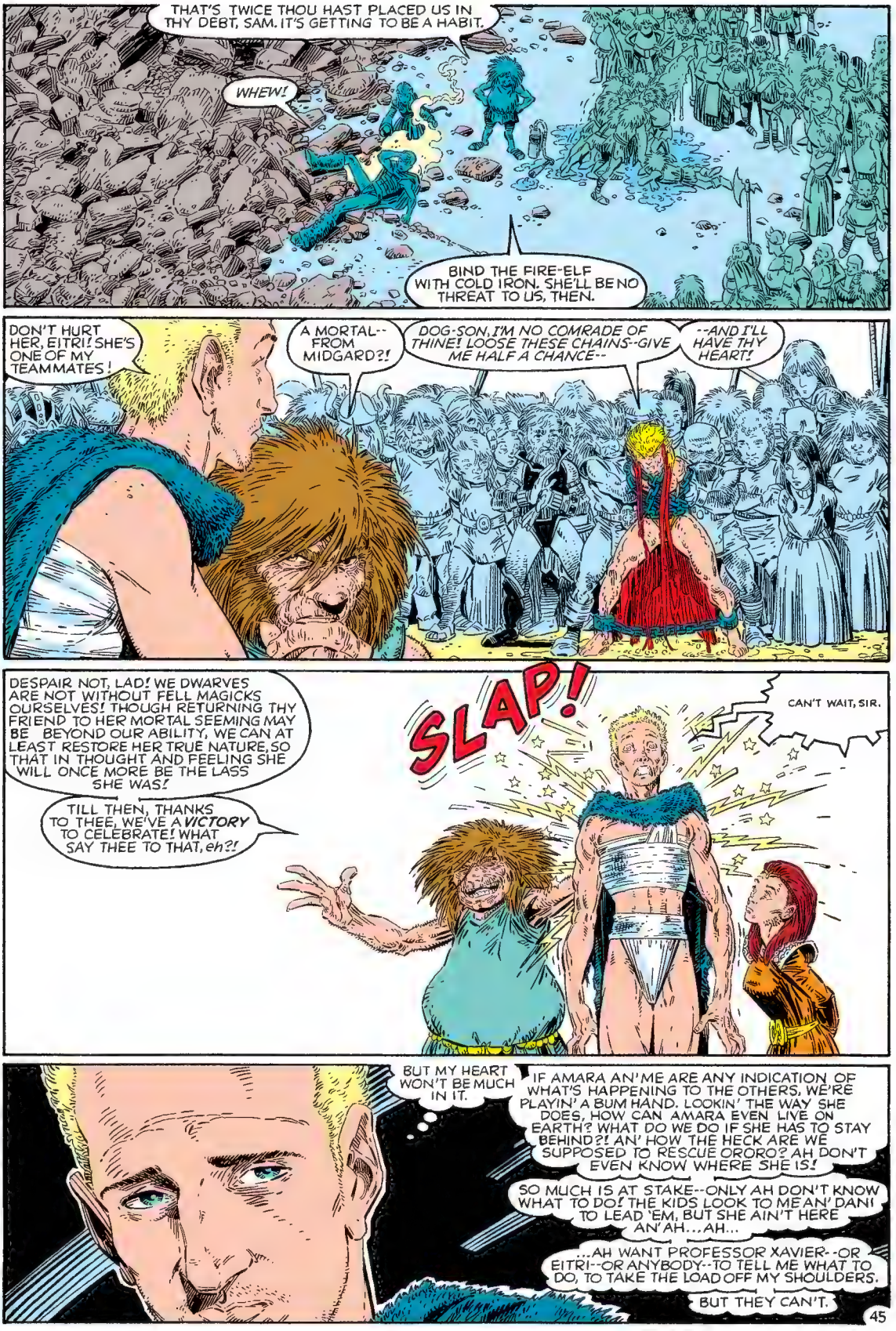

SUNSPOT.
INNKEEPER!
WORD HATH REACHED US OF A GNAT THOU HAST IN THINE EMPLOY, POSSESSED, 'TIS SAID, OF STRENGTH TO RIVAL THOR'S!
BRING FORTH FOOD AND DRINK FIT TO DELIGHT THE PALATE AND QUENCH THE THIRST OF ASGARD'S NOBLEST SONS!
NOW THAT IS WHAT I CALL FAT!
HUSH, SHADOWSKIN--YONDER STAND THE WARRIORS THREE: VOLSTAGG THE VOLUMINOUS, DASHING FANDRALL AND HOGUN THE GRIM!
THEY ARE HEROES!
BIG DEAL, SO'M I!
LOOKING FOR ME, TUBS?
ZOUNDS!
'TIS NOT E'EN A GNAT--
--BUT A BABE!
A CHALLENGE, BOY? VERILY, THOU HAST BRASS, I'LL GRANT THEE THAT.
THY TEST SHALL BE A SIMPLE ONE--LIFT THE LION OF ASGARD FROM THE FLOOR.
KREEEAK
NO PROBLEM.
WE SHALL SEE.
UHNFF!
WELL?
UHNF!
I AM WAITING.
UHNF!
HAST THOU BEGUN YET, LAD?
YO, HOMBRE--YOU THINK YOU'RE SO TOUGH, HOW ABOUT PROVING IT?!

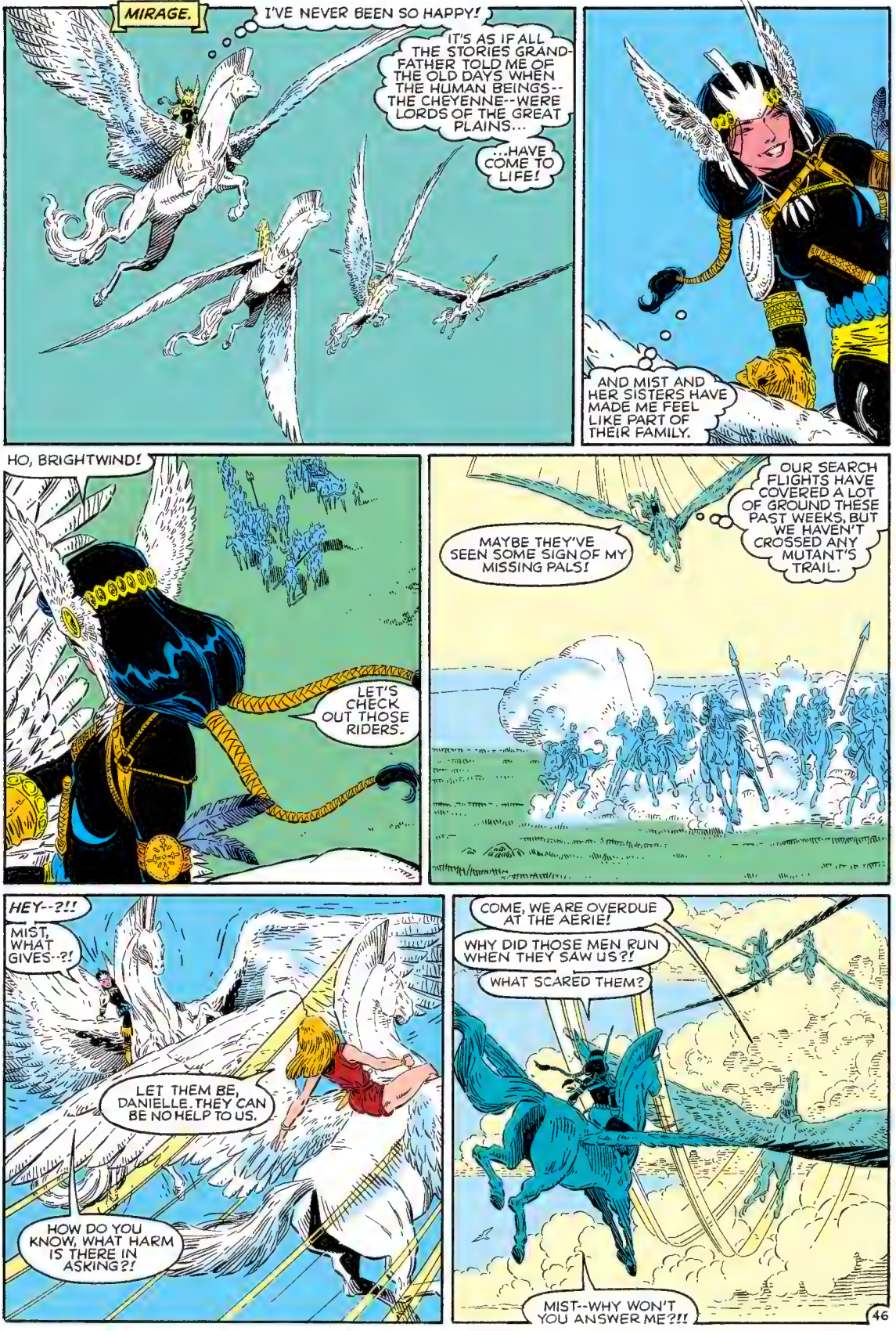

BY THE RING!!!
BRAVO!!
OW!
LAD, THOU'RT TRULY A WONDER!
HAD I NOT WITNESSED THIS MIRACLE WITH MINE OWN EYES, HOGUN, I'D NE'ER HATH BELIEVED IT.
AYE, FANDRALL.
I THINK...
...I HURT MYSELF...
...REAL BAD!
SUCH A MOMENTOUS FEAT...
...REQUIRES A CELEBRATION TO MATCH!
OW! OW! OW! OW! OW! OW! OW! OW!
FANDRALL, HAST NOTED YON LAD'S SKIN?
'TIS A COMMON ENOUGH COLOR...
...ON MIDGARD.
HOGUN--THINK'ST THOU HE IS A MORTAL? BUT IF SO, HOW CAME HE HERE?!
A GOOD QUESTION, MY FRIEND--AND A MYSTERY WE MIGHT DO WELL TO SOLVE.
I SHALL TAKE THEE IN HAND, GNAT, AND SHOW THEE THE WONDERS--AND PLEASURES--OF THIS FAIR CITY AS ONLY VOLSTAGG CAN. TRULY, THIS SHALL BE A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!
OW! OW! OW! OW! OW! OW! OW! OW! OW! OW!

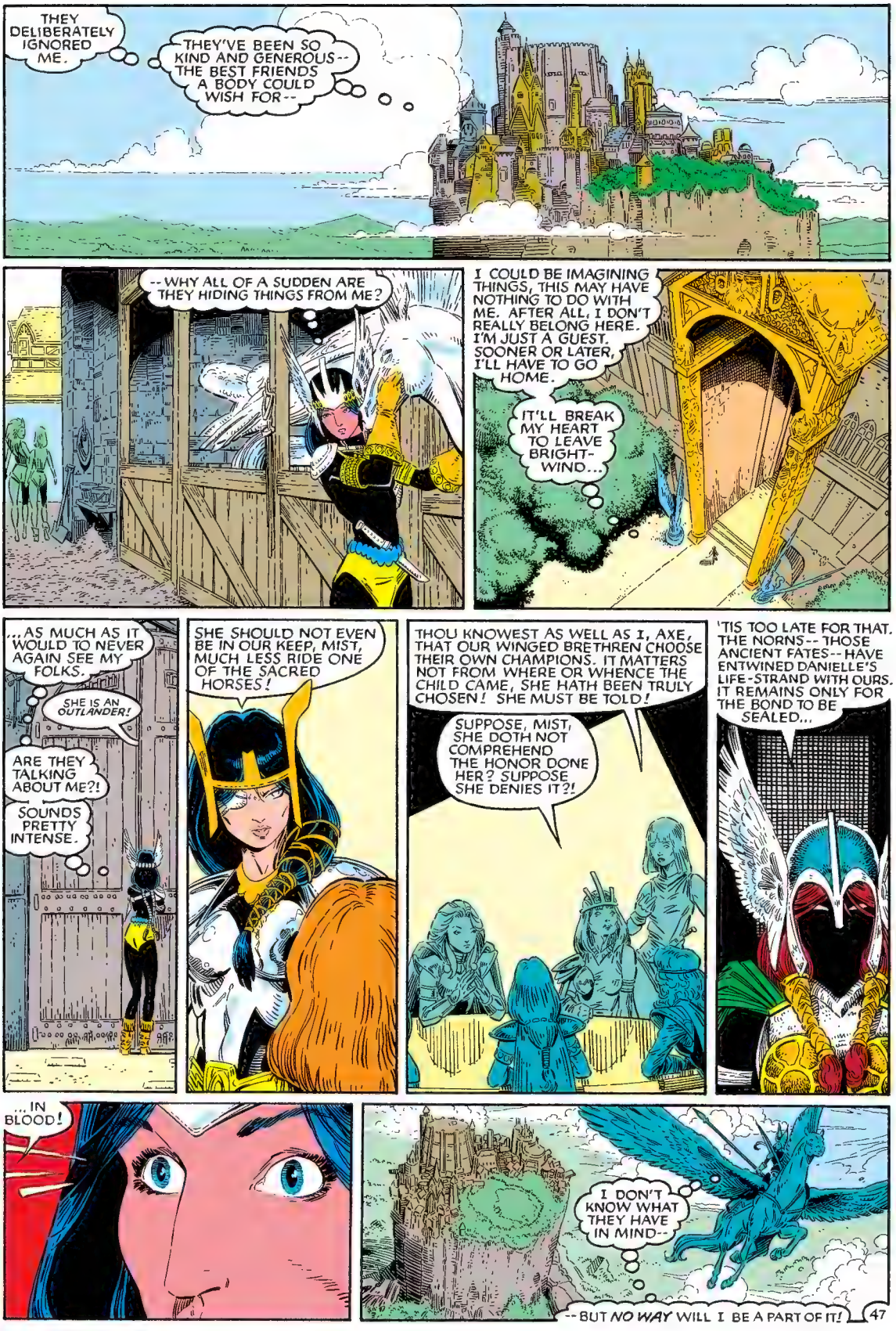

CANNONBALL.
WHY SO GLUM, SAM?
IS LIFE SO HARD A TRIAL TO FACE? SHOULD WE HAVE LEFT THEE TO DAME HELA'S EMBRACE?
NO SIR. AH'M GRATEFUL TO Y'ALL FOR PULLIN' ME THROUGH.
AH JUST FEEL LIKE AH'VE BEEN IN THIS BED FOREVER.
THOU WERT SORELY WOUNDED, SAM. THAT ELVEN SPEARPOINT NEAR PIERCED THY BRAVE AND NOBLE HEART.
PATIENT THOU MUST BE. WITH LOVING CARE, THOU'LT SOON BE WELL...
AND, SURE ENOUGH, AFTER A TIME...
...AH GOT NO IDEA WHY THE ENCHANTRESS ATTACKED US--HECK, SIR, BEGGIN' YOUR PARDON AN' ALL, UP TILL THEN AH FIGURED ASGARD WAS NOTHIN' BUT A LEGEND, PART AN' PARCEL OF A FAIRYTALE STORYBOOK.
NO OFFENSE TAKEN, SON.
TELL ME, WHAT ARE THINE INTENTIONS?
SOON AS AH'M FIT, AH'LL GO AFTER MY FRIENDS, TRY TO GET US ALL HOME.
THE ENCHANTRESS IS A FORMIDABLE FOE.
THOU COULDST STAY WITH US, PALADIN.
AND MAKE OUR HOME THINE OWN.
PEACE, KINDRA--LEAVE THE LAD BE!
IN HAPPIER TIMES, SAM, AN APPEAL TO LORD ODIN WOULD HAVE SET THIS MESS A'RIGHT. BUT WITH HIS DISAPPEARANCE AFTER THE SURTWAR, THE VERY FABRIC OF THE REALM HATH BEGUN UNRAVELING.
MY PEOPLE ARE BESET WITH *DARK ELVES*--THOSE WHO FOLLOWED ACCURSED MALEKITH--SEEKING TO CONQUER US, SO THAT WE, WITH OUR METAL-WORKING SKILLS, MIGHT FORGE THEM THE WEAPONS NEEDED TO OVERTHROW THE GODS.
I'VE LITTLE LOVE FOR ASGARD--IT WOULDN'T BREAK MY HEART TO SEE THOSE PROUD AESIR HUMBLED--BUT BY MY HEARTH-FIRE RUNES, I'LL *DIE* BEFORE I SEE MY RACE *ENSLAVED!*
I FEAR, MY BOY, THEE AND THINE HAVE STUMBLED HEADLONG INTO A BEARPIT--*EH?!!*
FATHER--THE CAVERN WALL!
GLORY--?!

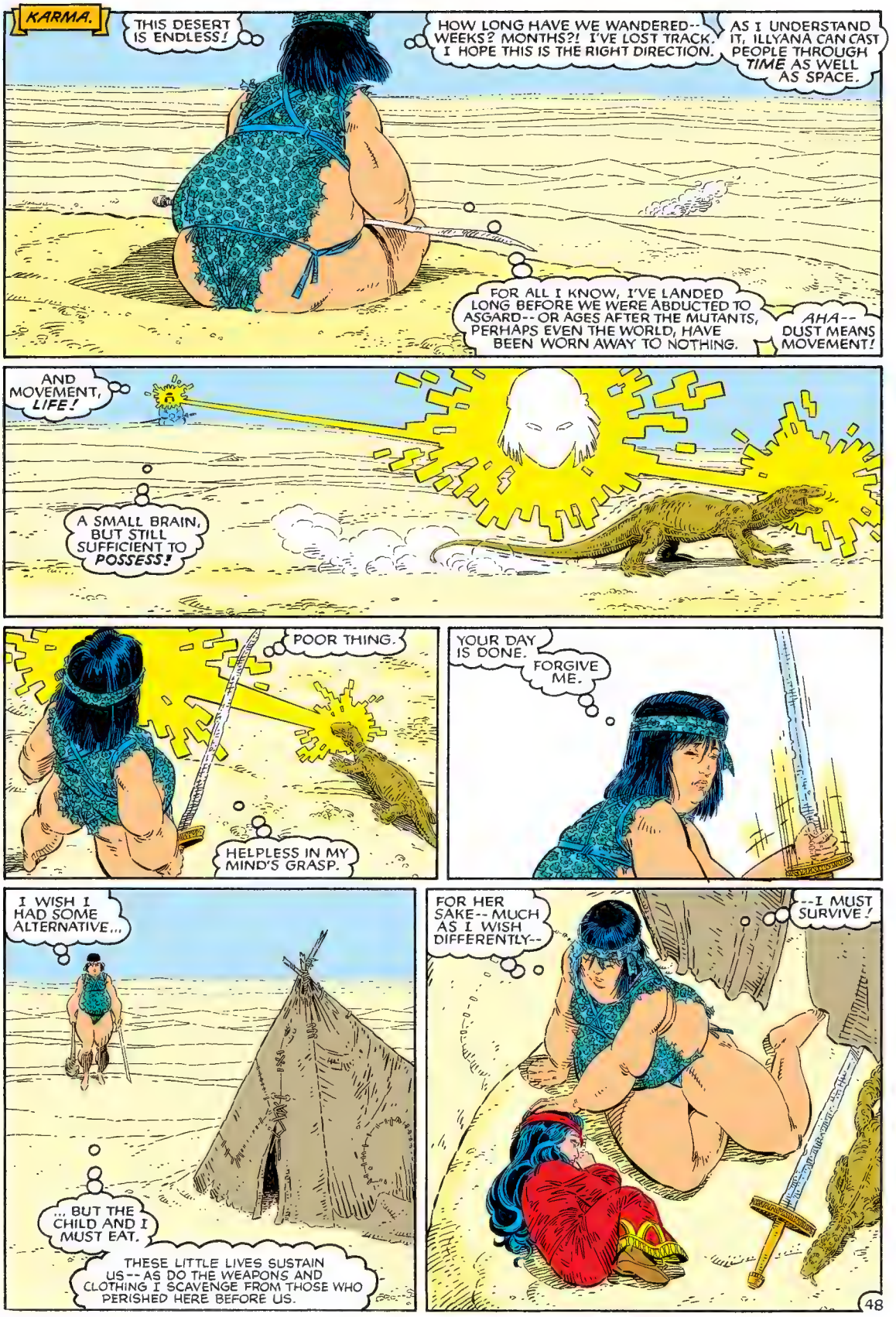

LITTLE LORD, THY DAY IS DONE!
FROM THIS MOMENT TO THE END OF TIME...
...SHALT THOU DWELL IN NIFFLEHEIM--
--AMONGST THE DEAD!
THAT'S MAGMA!
CAN'T LET HER LAVA BOLT FRY EITRI AN' KINDRA--
--GOTTA PRAY AH CAN DEFLECT IT!
NOT TOO SHABBY, GUTHRIE!
NOT TOO GREAT, EITHER.
AH GOT A LITTLE SCORCHED--AH FELT AMARA'S FIRE!
THAT MEANS AH AIN'T COMPLETELY INVULNERABLE--SURE HOPE THAT'S A TEMPORARY CONDITION, DUE TO MY BEIN' NOT YET FULLY RECOVERED--
WHOOPS?!!
SHE MEANS BUSINESS!
SHE ACTS LIKE SHE DON'T KNOW ME--AN' SHE LOOKS SO DIFFERENT! SHE MUST BE UNDER SOME SORT'A SPELL!

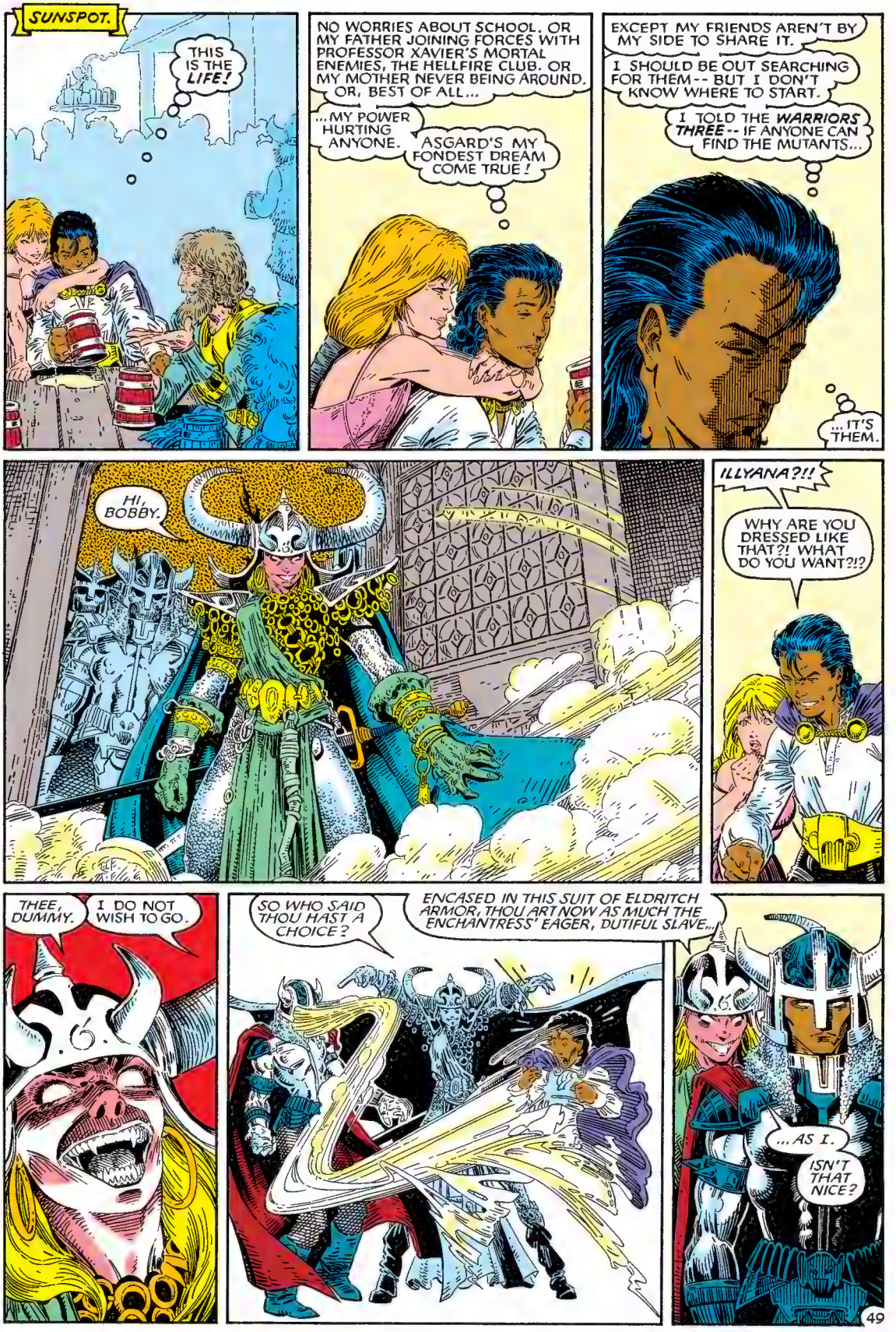

"THESE MUST BE THOSE *DARK ELVES* EITRI SPOKE OF-- HIS PEOPLE ARE PUTTIN' UP A HECKUVA FIGHT...
"...BUT THEY'RE BEIN' CUT TO PIECES!"
THE FIREGIRL GIVES OUR FOES TOO GREAT AN ADVANTAGE.
FORTUNATELY, THIS EXTINGUISHER...
SPAS
S-S-SH
...SHOULD COOL HER FLAMES.
YOUR DADDY'S KAYO'D AMARA, KINDRA!
AH'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST!
SAM, BE CAREFUL!
ALWAYS AM!
'CEPT, IT SEEMS, WHERE GALS ARE CONCERNED.
NEVER HAD TIME FOR 'EM MUCH, WHEN AH WAS GROWIN' UP.
AN' AH FIGURED, WHAT WOULD ANY DECENT, SELF-RESPECTIN' GIRL WANT WITH A BIG, CLUMSY, UGLY LUNK...
...LIKE ME?
BLA-
WHAM!

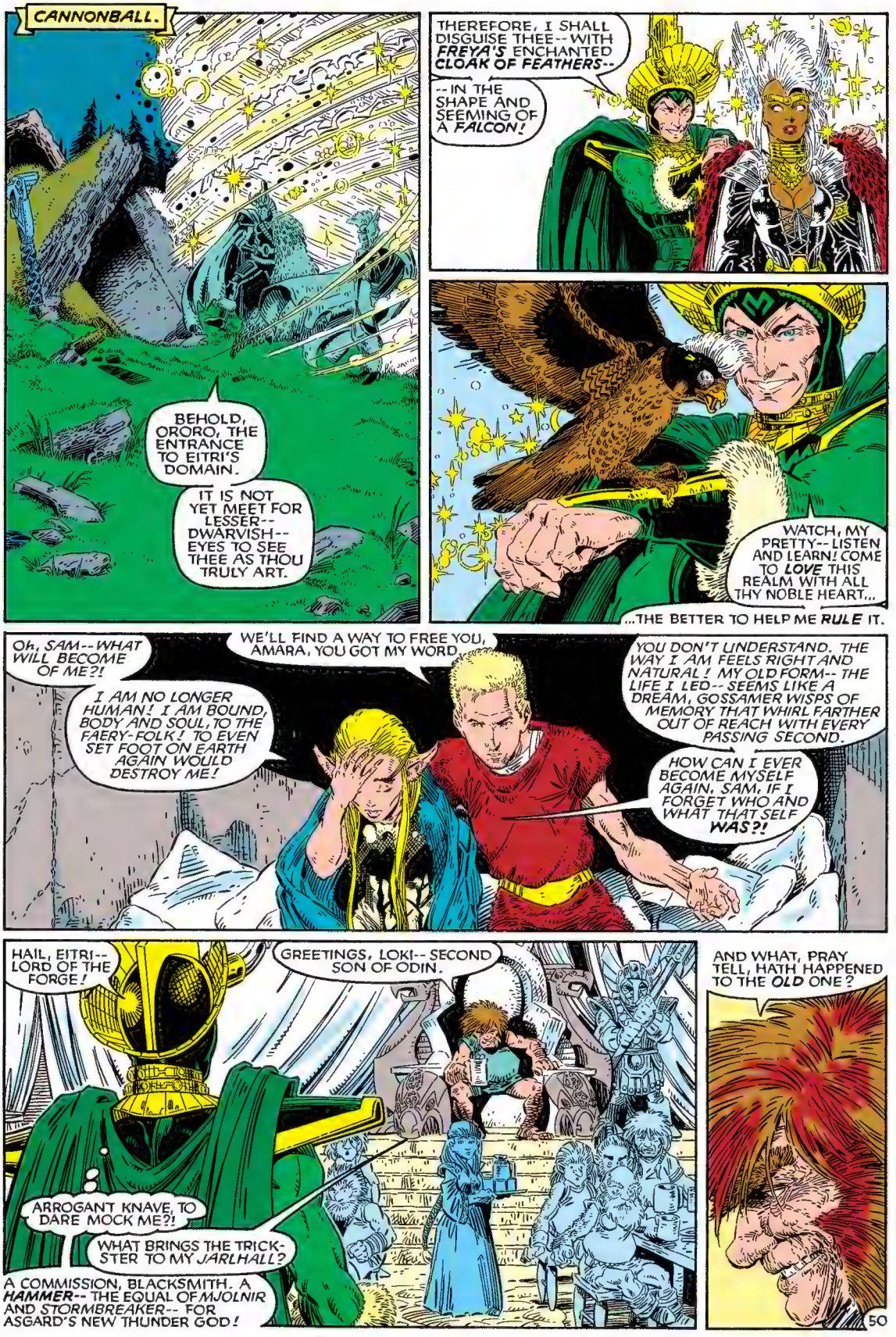

THAT'S TWICE THOU HAST PLACED US IN THY DEBT, SAM. IT'S GETTING TO BE A HABIT.
WHEW!
BIND THE FIRE-ELF WITH COLD IRON. SHE'LL BE NO THREAT TO US, THEN.
DON'T HURT HER, EITRI! SHE'S ONE OF MY TEAMMATES!
A MORTAL--FROM MIDGARD?!
DOG-SON, I'M NO COMRADE OF THINE! LOOSE THESE CHAINS--GIVE ME HALF A CHANCE--
--AND I'LL HAVE THY HEART!
DESPAIR NOT, LAD! WE DWARVES ARE NOT WITHOUT FELL MAGICKS OURSELVES! THOUGH RETURNING THY FRIEND TO HER MORTAL SEEMING MAY BE BEYOND OUR ABILITY, WE CAN AT LEAST RESTORE HER TRUE NATURE, SO THAT IN THOUGHT AND FEELING SHE WILL ONCE MORE BE THE LASS SHE WAS!
TILL THEN, THANKS TO THEE, WE'VE A VICTORY TO CELEBRATE! WHAT SAY THEE TO THAT, eh?!
SLAP!
CAN'T WAIT, SIR.
BUT MY HEART WON'T BE MUCH IN IT.
IF AMARA AN' ME ARE ANY INDICATION OF WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TO THE OTHERS, WE'RE PLAYIN' A BUM HAND. LOOKIN' THE WAY SHE DOES, HOW CAN AMARA EVEN LIVE ON EARTH? WHAT DO WE DO IF SHE HAS TO STAY BEHIND?! AN' HOW THE HECK ARE WE SUPPOSED TO RESCUE ORORO? AH DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE SHE IS!
SO MUCH IS AT STAKE--ONLY AH DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! THE KIDS LOOK TO ME AN' DANI TO LEAD 'EM, BUT SHE AIN'T HERE AN' AH... AH...
...AH WANT PROFESSOR XAVIER--OR EITRI--OR ANYBODY--TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO, TO TAKE THE LOAD OFF MY SHOULDERS.
BUT THEY CAN'T.

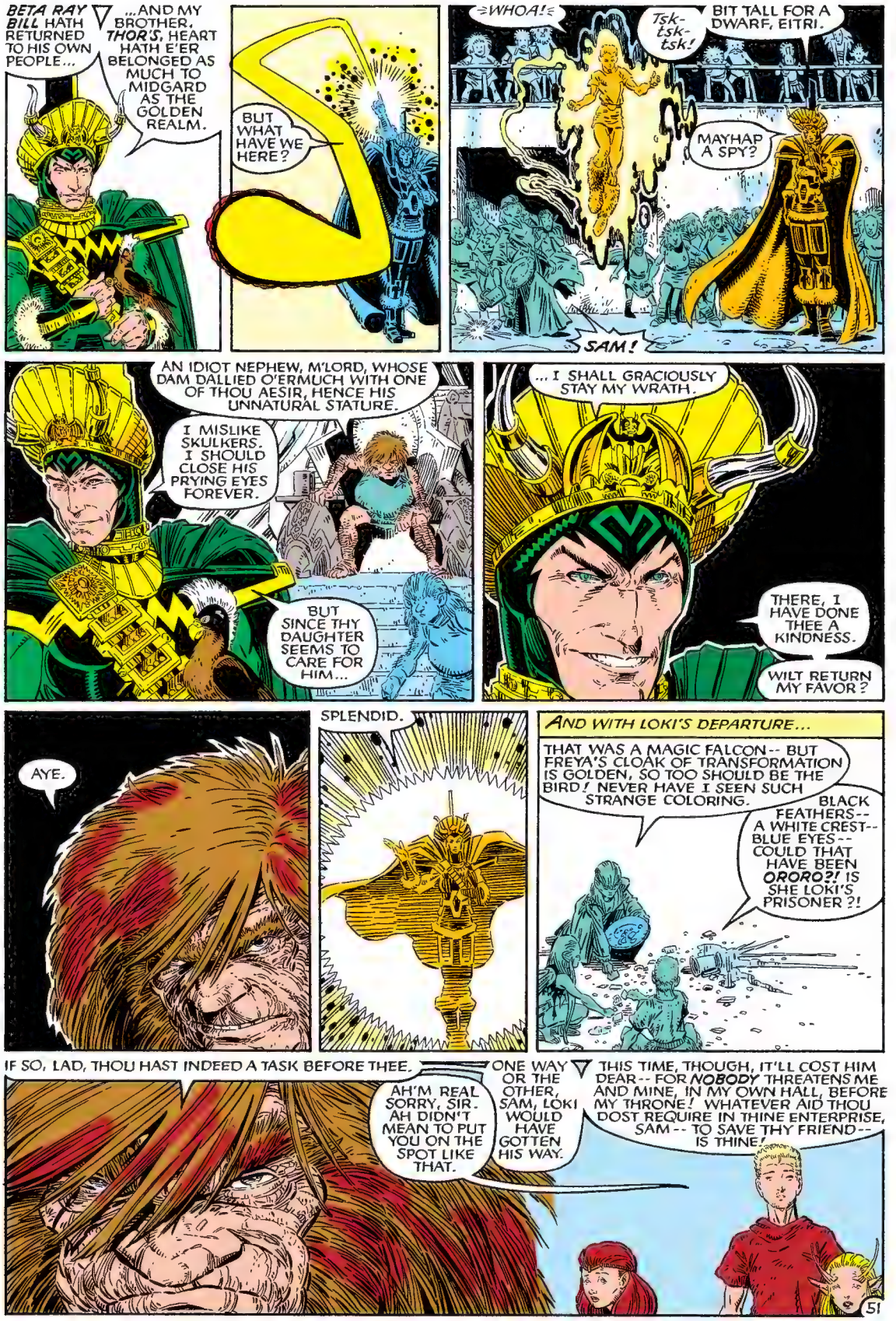

MIRAGE.
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY!
IT'S AS IF ALL THE STORIES GRANDFATHER TOLD ME OF THE OLD DAYS WHEN THE HUMAN BEINGS--THE CHEYENNE--WERE LORDS OF THE GREAT PLAINS...
...HAVE COME TO LIFE!
AND MIST AND HER SISTERS HAVE MADE ME FEEL LIKE PART OF THEIR FAMILY.
HO, BRIGHTWIND!
LET'S CHECK OUT THOSE RIDERS.
MAYBE THEY'VE SEEN SOME SIGN OF MY MISSING PALS!
OUR SEARCH FLIGHTS HAVE COVERED A LOT OF GROUND THESE PAST WEEKS, BUT WE HAVEN'T CROSSED ANY MUTANT'S TRAIL.
HEY--?!!
MIST, WHAT GIVES--?!
LET THEM BE, DANIELLE. THEY CAN BE NO HELP TO US.
HOW DO YOU KNOW, WHAT HARM IS THERE IN ASKING?!
COME, WE ARE OVERDUE AT THE AERIE!
WHY DID THOSE MEN RUN WHEN THEY SAW US?!
WHAT SCARED THEM?
MIST--WHY WON'T YOU ANSWER ME?!!


THEY DELIBERATELY IGNORED ME.
THEY'VE BEEN SO KIND AND GENEROUS-- THE BEST FRIENDS A BODY COULD WISH FOR--
--WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN ARE THEY HIDING THINGS FROM ME?
I COULD BE IMAGINING THINGS, THIS MAY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME. AFTER ALL, I DON'T REALLY BELONG HERE. I'M JUST A GUEST. SOONER OR LATER, I'LL HAVE TO GO HOME.
IT'LL BREAK MY HEART TO LEAVE BRIGHT-WIND...
...AS MUCH AS IT WOULD TO NEVER AGAIN SEE MY FOLKS.
SHE IS AN OUTLANDER!
ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT ME?!
SOUNDS PRETTY INTENSE.
SHE SHOULD NOT EVEN BE IN OUR KEEP, MIST, MUCH LESS RIDE ONE OF THE SACRED HORSES!
THOU KNOWEST AS WELL AS I, AXE, THAT OUR WINGED BRETHREN CHOOSE THEIR OWN CHAMPIONS. IT MATTERS NOT FROM WHERE OR WHENCE THE CHILD CAME, SHE HATH BEEN TRULY CHOSEN! SHE MUST BE TOLD!
SUPPOSE, MIST, SHE DOTH NOT COMPREHEND THE HONOR DONE HER? SUPPOSE SHE DENIES IT?!
'TIS TOO LATE FOR THAT. THE NORNS-- THOSE ANCIENT FATES-- HAVE ENTWINED DANIELLE'S LIFE-STRAND WITH OURS. IT REMAINS ONLY FOR THE BOND TO BE SEALED...
...IN BLOOD!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE IN MIND--
--BUT NO WAY WILL I BE A PART OF IT!

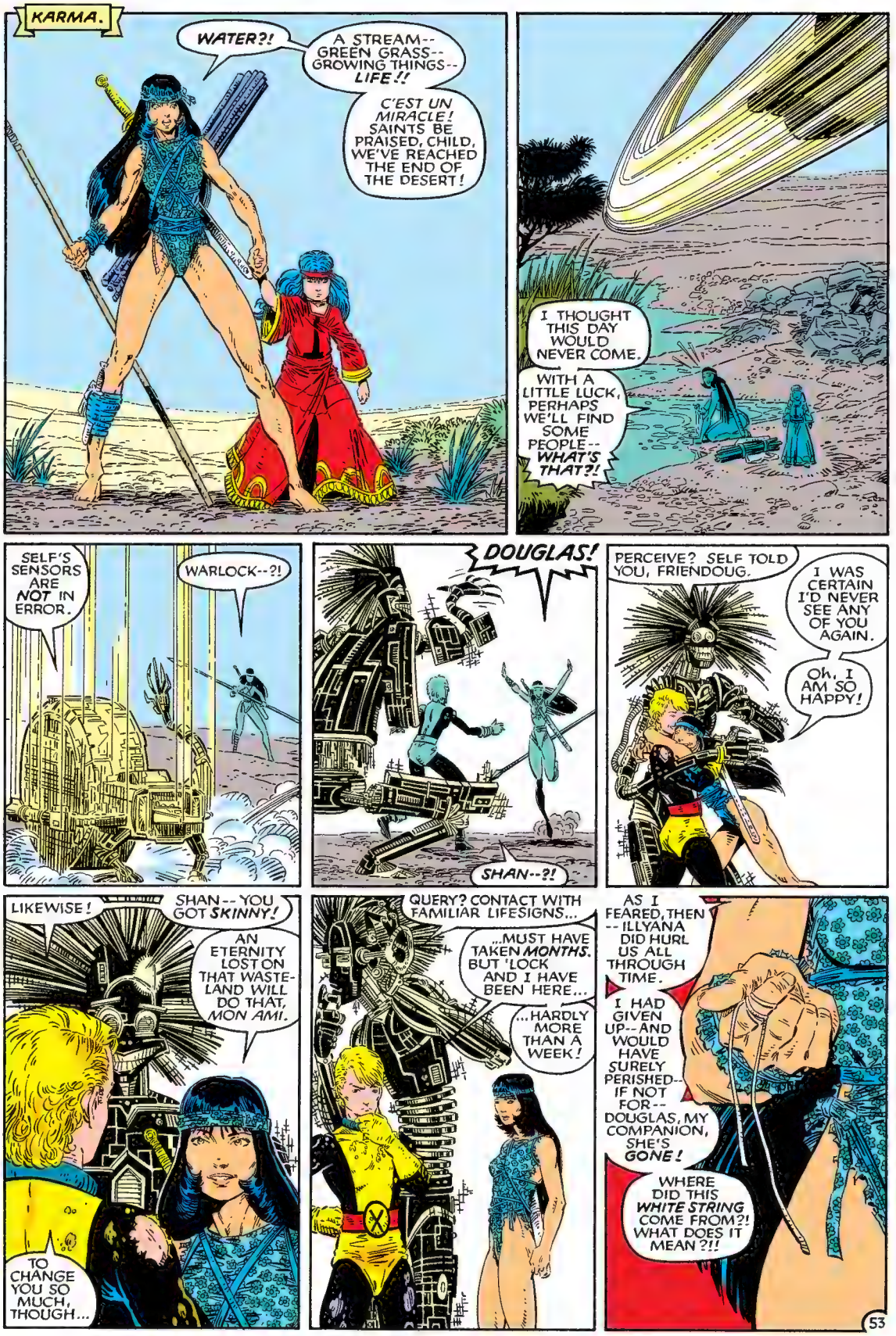

KARMA.
THIS DESERT IS ENDLESS!
HOW LONG HAVE WE WANDERED--WEEKS? MONTHS?! I'VE LOST TRACK. I HOPE THIS IS THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
AS I UNDERSTAND IT, ILLYANA CAN CAST PEOPLE THROUGH TIME AS WELL AS SPACE.
FOR ALL I KNOW, I'VE LANDED LONG BEFORE WE WERE ABDUCTED TO ASGARD--OR AGES AFTER THE MUTANTS, PERHAPS EVEN THE WORLD, HAVE BEEN WORN AWAY TO NOTHING.
AHA--DUST MEANS MOVEMENT!
AND MOVEMENT, LIFE!
A SMALL BRAIN, BUT STILL SUFFICIENT TO POSSESS!
POOR THING.
HELPLESS IN MY MIND'S GRASP.
YOUR DAY IS DONE.
FORGIVE ME.
I WISH I HAD SOME ALTERNATIVE...
... BUT THE CHILD AND I MUST EAT.
THESE LITTLE LIVES SUSTAIN US--AS DO THE WEAPONS AND CLOTHING I SCAVENGE FROM THOSE WHO PERISHED HERE BEFORE US.
FOR HER SAKE--MUCH AS I WISH DIFFERENTLY--
--I MUST SURVIVE!

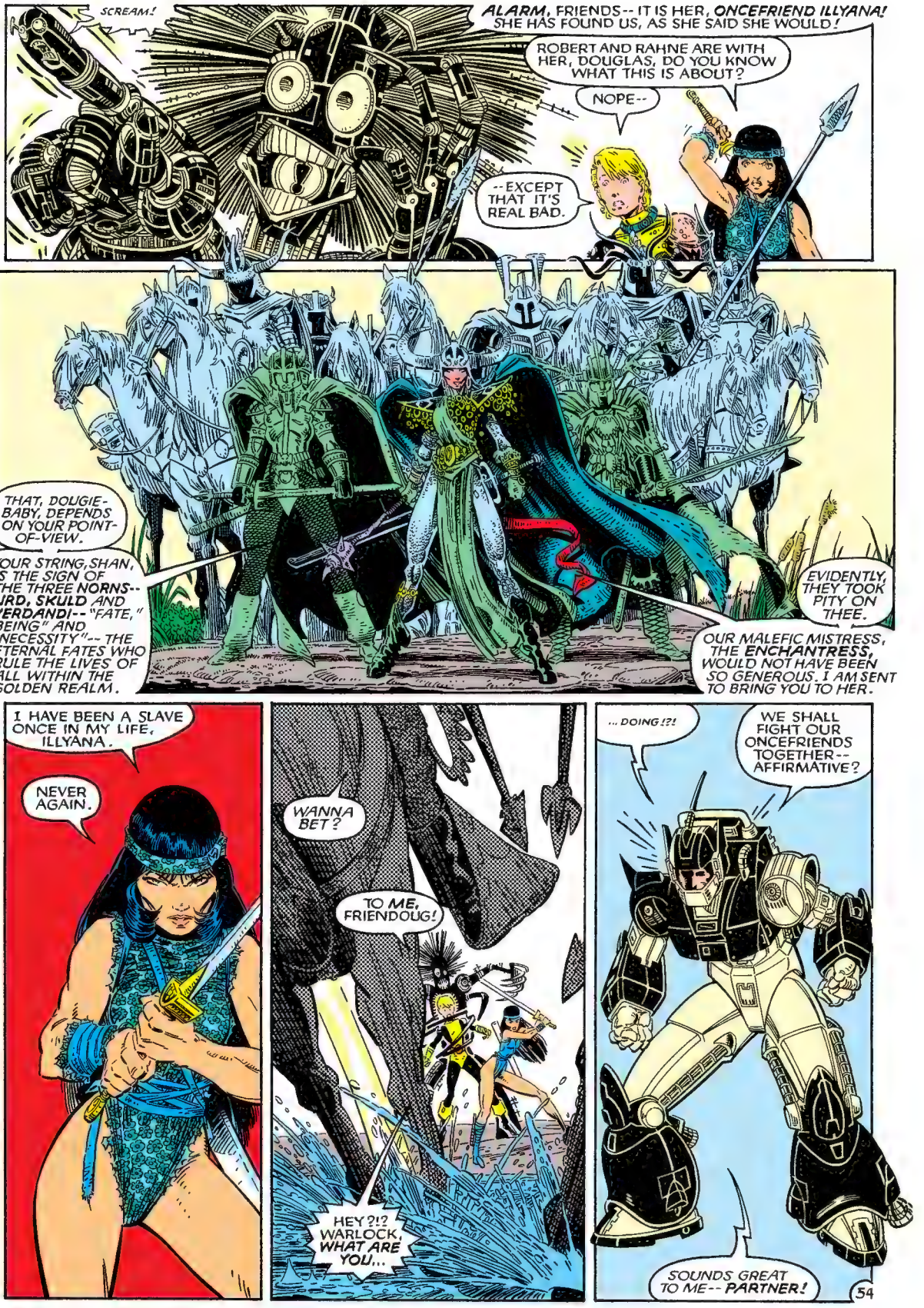

SUNSPOT.
THIS IS THE LIFE!
NO WORRIES ABOUT SCHOOL. OR MY FATHER JOINING FORCES WITH PROFESSOR XAVIER'S MORTAL ENEMIES, THE HELLFIRE CLUB. OR MY MOTHER NEVER BEING AROUND. OR, BEST OF ALL...
...MY POWER HURTING ANYONE.
ASGARD'S MY FONDEST DREAM COME TRUE!
EXCEPT MY FRIENDS AREN'T BY MY SIDE TO SHARE IT.
I SHOULD BE OUT SEARCHING FOR THEM -- BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START.
I TOLD THE WARRIORS THREE -- IF ANYONE CAN FIND THE MUTANTS...
...IT'S THEM.
HI, BOBBY.
ILLYANA?!!
WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!?
THEE, DUMMY.
I DO NOT WISH TO GO.
SO WHO SAID THOU HAST A CHOICE?
ENCASED IN THIS SUIT OF ELDRITCH ARMOR, THOU ART NOW AS MUCH THE ENCHANTRESS' EAGER, DUTIFUL SLAVE...
...AS I.
ISN'T THAT NICE?

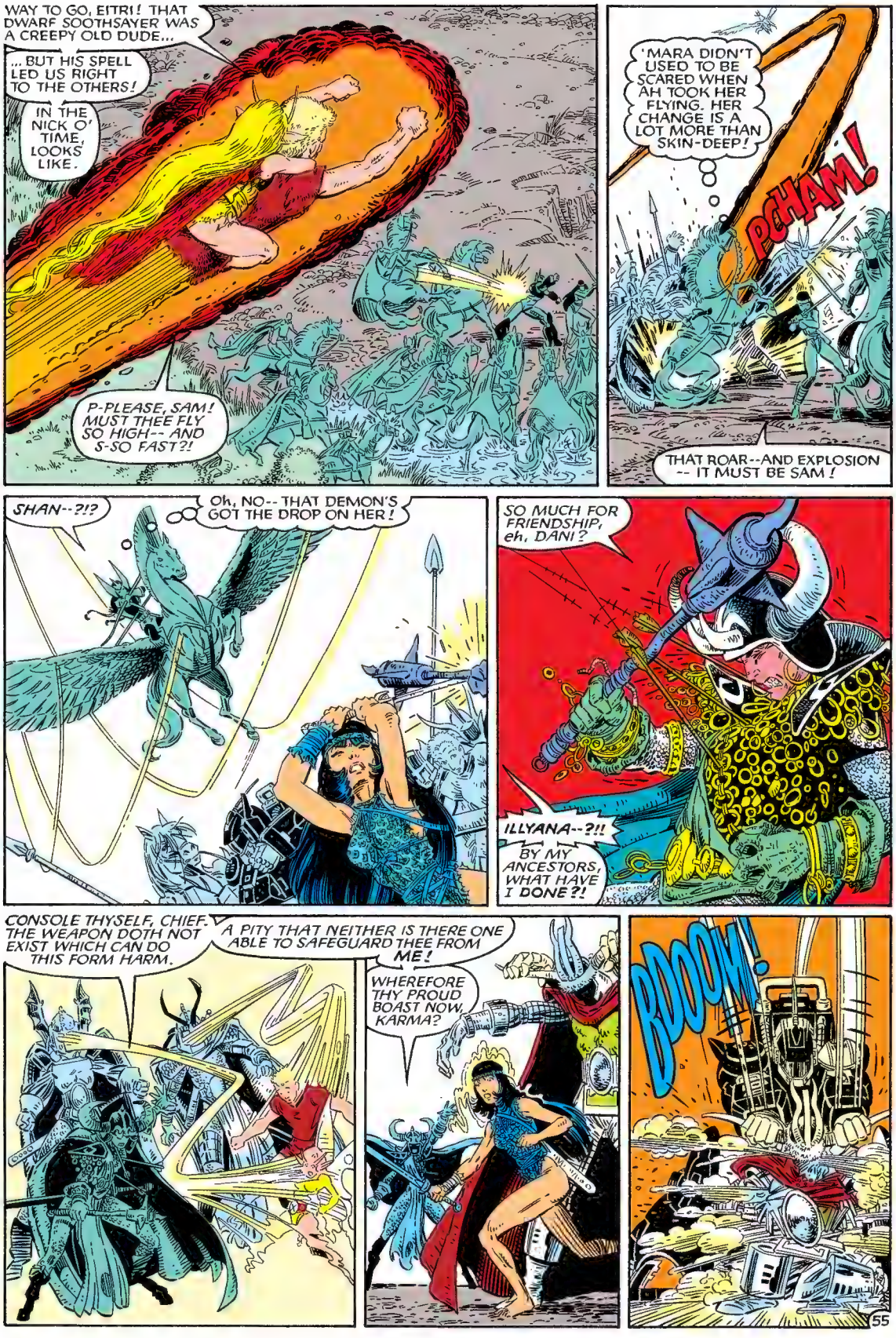

CANNONBALL.
BEHOLD, ORORO, THE ENTRANCE TO EITRI'S DOMAIN.
IT IS NOT YET MEET FOR LESSER-- DWARVISH-- EYES TO SEE THEE AS THOU TRULY ART.
THEREFORE, I SHALL DISGUISE THEE-- WITH FREYA'S ENCHANTED CLOAK OF FEATHERS--
--IN THE SHAPE AND SEEMING OF A FALCON!
WATCH, MY PRETTY-- LISTEN AND LEARN! COME TO LOVE THIS REALM WITH ALL THY NOBLE HEART...
...THE BETTER TO HELP ME RULE IT.
Oh, SAM-- WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME?!
I AM NO LONGER HUMAN! I AM BOUND, BODY AND SOUL, TO THE FAERY-FOLK! TO EVEN SET FOOT ON EARTH AGAIN WOULD DESTROY ME!
WE'LL FIND A WAY TO FREE YOU, AMARA, YOU GOT MY WORD.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. THE WAY I AM FEELS RIGHT AND NATURAL! MY OLD FORM-- THE LIFE I LED-- SEEMS LIKE A DREAM, GOSSAMER WISPS OF MEMORY THAT WHIRL FARTHER OUT OF REACH WITH EVERY PASSING SECOND.
HOW CAN I EVER BECOME MYSELF AGAIN, SAM, IF I FORGET WHO AND WHAT THAT SELF WAS?!
HAIL, EITRI-- LORD OF THE FORGE!
GREETINGS, LOKI-- SECOND SON OF ODIN.
ARROGANT KNAVE, TO DARE MOCK ME?!
WHAT BRINGS THE TRICK-STER TO MY JARLHALL?
A COMMISSION, BLACKSMITH. A HAMMER-- THE EQUAL OF MJOLNIR AND STORMBREAKER-- FOR ASGARD'S NEW THUNDER GOD!
AND WHAT, PRAY TELL, HATH HAPPENED TO THE OLD ONE?

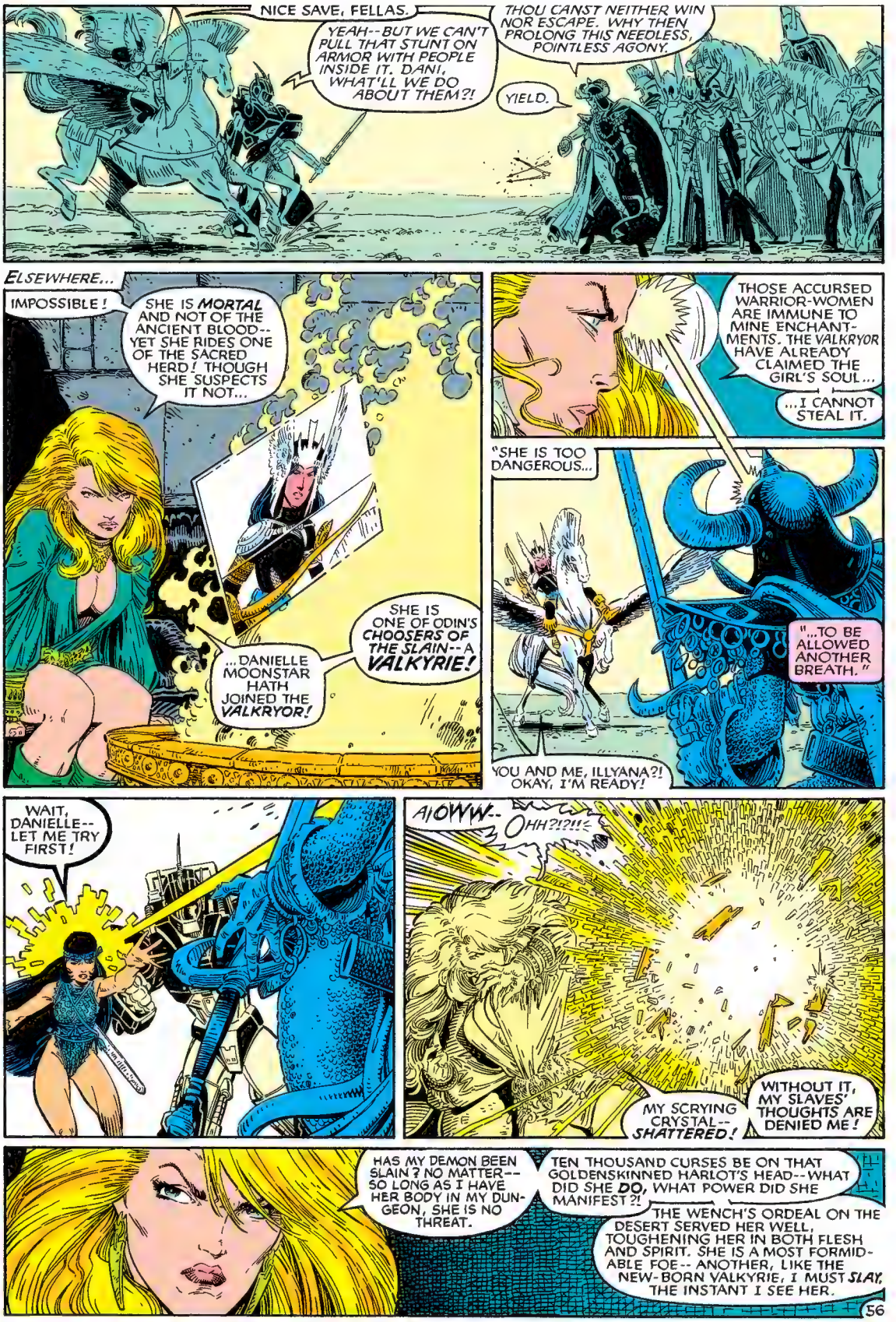

BETA RAY BILL HATH RETURNED TO HIS OWN PEOPLE...
...AND MY BROTHER, THOR'S, HEART HATH E'ER BELONGED AS MUCH TO MIDGARD AS THE GOLDEN REALM.
BUT WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
WHOA!
Tsk-tsk-tsk!
BIT TALL FOR A DWARF, EITRI.
MAYHAP A SPY?
SAM!
AN IDIOT NEPHEW, M'LORD, WHOSE DAM DALLIED O'ERMUCH WITH ONE OF THOU AESIR, HENCE HIS UNNATURAL STATURE.
I MISLIKE SKULKERS. I SHOULD CLOSE HIS PRYING EYES FOREVER.
BUT SINCE THY DAUGHTER SEEMS TO CARE FOR HIM...
... I SHALL GRACIOUSLY STAY MY WRATH.
THERE, I HAVE DONE THEE A KINDNESS.
WILT RETURN MY FAVOR?
AYE.
SPLENDID.
AND WITH LOKI'S DEPARTURE...
THAT WAS A MAGIC FALCON-- BUT FREYA'S CLOAK OF TRANSFORMATION IS GOLDEN, SO TOO SHOULD BE THE BIRD! NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH STRANGE COLORING.
BLACK FEATHERS-- A WHITE CREST-- BLUE EYES-- COULD THAT HAVE BEEN ORORO?! IS SHE LOKI'S PRISONER?!
IF SO, LAD, THOU HAST INDEED A TASK BEFORE THEE.
AH'M REAL SORRY, SIR. AH DIDN'T MEAN TO PUT YOU ON THE SPOT LIKE THAT.
ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, SAM, LOKI WOULD HAVE GOTTEN HIS WAY.
THIS TIME, THOUGH, IT'LL COST HIM DEAR-- FOR NOBODY THREATENS ME AND MINE, IN MY OWN HALL, BEFORE MY THRONE! WHATEVER AID THOU DOST REQUIRE IN THINE ENTERPRISE, SAM-- TO SAVE THY FRIEND-- IS THINE!

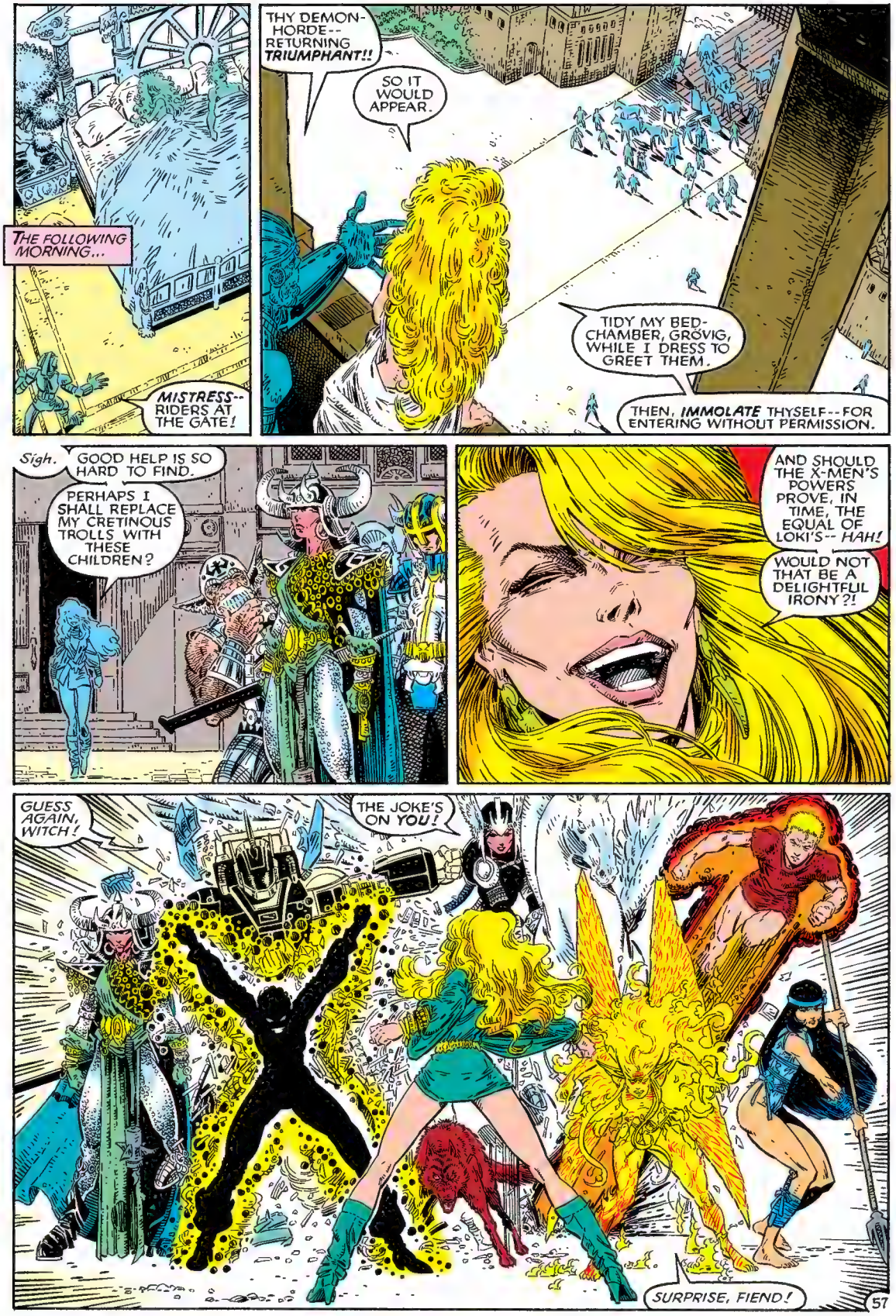
WOLFSBANE.
ARROOOOOOOO
WHY DO YOU SING SO SAD A SONG?
I WAS LONELY.
I... MISSED THEE, RAHNÉ.
REALLY?
I WOULD NOT LIE.
COME HOME, LITTLE ONE.
SHARE MY LIFE--
--MY LOVE!
RAHNE--?!!
I CANNOT!
YOU MUST NA' ASK THAT OF ME-- EVER!
HOW CAN THIS BE?!?
JUST THINKING OF HIM MAKES MY HEART ACHE. I WANT TO SAY, YES, TO BE WITH HIM ALWAYS--
--BUT IS THA' NOT WRONG, AND WICKED?!
BUT THEN, AM I?
I'M SO CONFUSED! IF WHAT WE FEEL IS TRUE LOVE, WHY MUST WE DENY IT?
POOR WEE LASS--
ILLYANA--?!?
THAT PRECIOUS LOVE...
...IS NOW FOREVER GONE FROM THY LIFE.
THY HEART IS FOREVER BOUND...
...TO EVIL!
RAHNE!


KARMA.
WATER?!
A STREAM-- GREEN GRASS-- GROWING THINGS-- LIFE!!
C'EST UN MIRACLE! SAINTS BE PRAISED, CHILD, WE'VE REACHED THE END OF THE DESERT!
I THOUGHT THIS DAY WOULD NEVER COME.
WITH A LITTLE LUCK, PERHAPS WE'LL FIND SOME PEOPLE-- WHAT'S THAT?!
SELF'S SENSORS ARE NOT IN ERROR.
WARLOCK--?!
DOUGLAS!
SHAN--?!
PERCEIVE? SELF TOLD YOU, FRIENDOUG.
I WAS CERTAIN I'D NEVER SEE ANY OF YOU AGAIN.
Oh, I AM SO HAPPY!
LIKEWISE!
SHAN-- YOU GOT SKINNY!
AN ETERNITY LOST ON THAT WASTE-LAND WILL DO THAT, MON AMI.
TO CHANGE YOU SO MUCH, THOUGH...
QUERY? CONTACT WITH FAMILIAR LIFESIGNS...
...MUST HAVE TAKEN MONTHS. BUT 'LOCK AND I HAVE BEEN HERE...
...HARDLY MORE THAN A WEEK!
AS I FEARED, THEN -- ILLYANA DID HURL US ALL THROUGH TIME.
I HAD GIVEN UP--AND WOULD HAVE SURELY PERISHED-- IF NOT FOR-- DOUGLAS, MY COMPANION, SHE'S GONE!
WHERE DID THIS WHITE STRING COME FROM?! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?!!

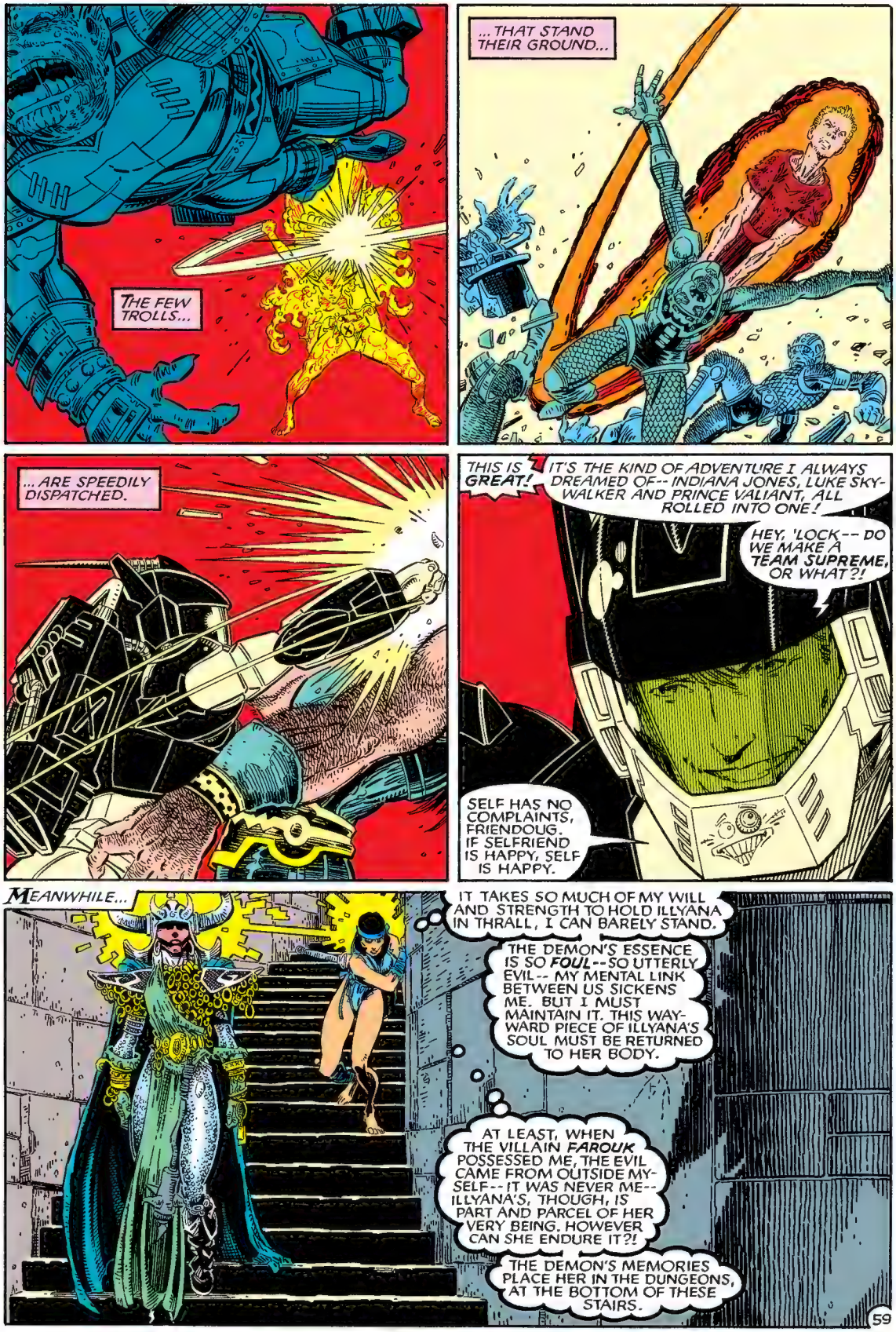

SCREAM!
ALARM, FRIENDS-- IT IS HER, ONCEFRIEND ILLYANA! SHE HAS FOUND US, AS SHE SAID SHE WOULD!
ROBERT AND RAHNE ARE WITH HER, DOUGLAS, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?
NOPE--
--EXCEPT THAT IT'S REAL BAD.
THAT, DOUGIE-BABY, DEPENDS ON YOUR POINT-OF-VIEW.
YOUR STRING, SHAN, IS THE SIGN OF THE THREE NORNS-- URD, SKULD AND VERDANDI-- "FATE," "BEING" AND "NECESSITY"-- THE ETERNAL FATES WHO RULE THE LIVES OF ALL WITHIN THE GOLDEN REALM.
EVIDENTLY, THEY TOOK PITY ON THEE.
OUR MALEFIC MISTRESS, THE ENCHANTRESS, WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SO GENEROUS. I AM SENT TO BRING YOU TO HER.
I HAVE BEEN A SLAVE ONCE IN MY LIFE, ILLYANA.
NEVER AGAIN.
WANNA BET?
TO ME, FRIENDOUG!
HEY?!? WARLOCK, WHAT ARE YOU...
... DOING!?!
WE SHALL FIGHT OUR ONCEFRIENDS TOGETHER-- AFFIRMATIVE?
SOUNDS GREAT TO ME-- PARTNER!

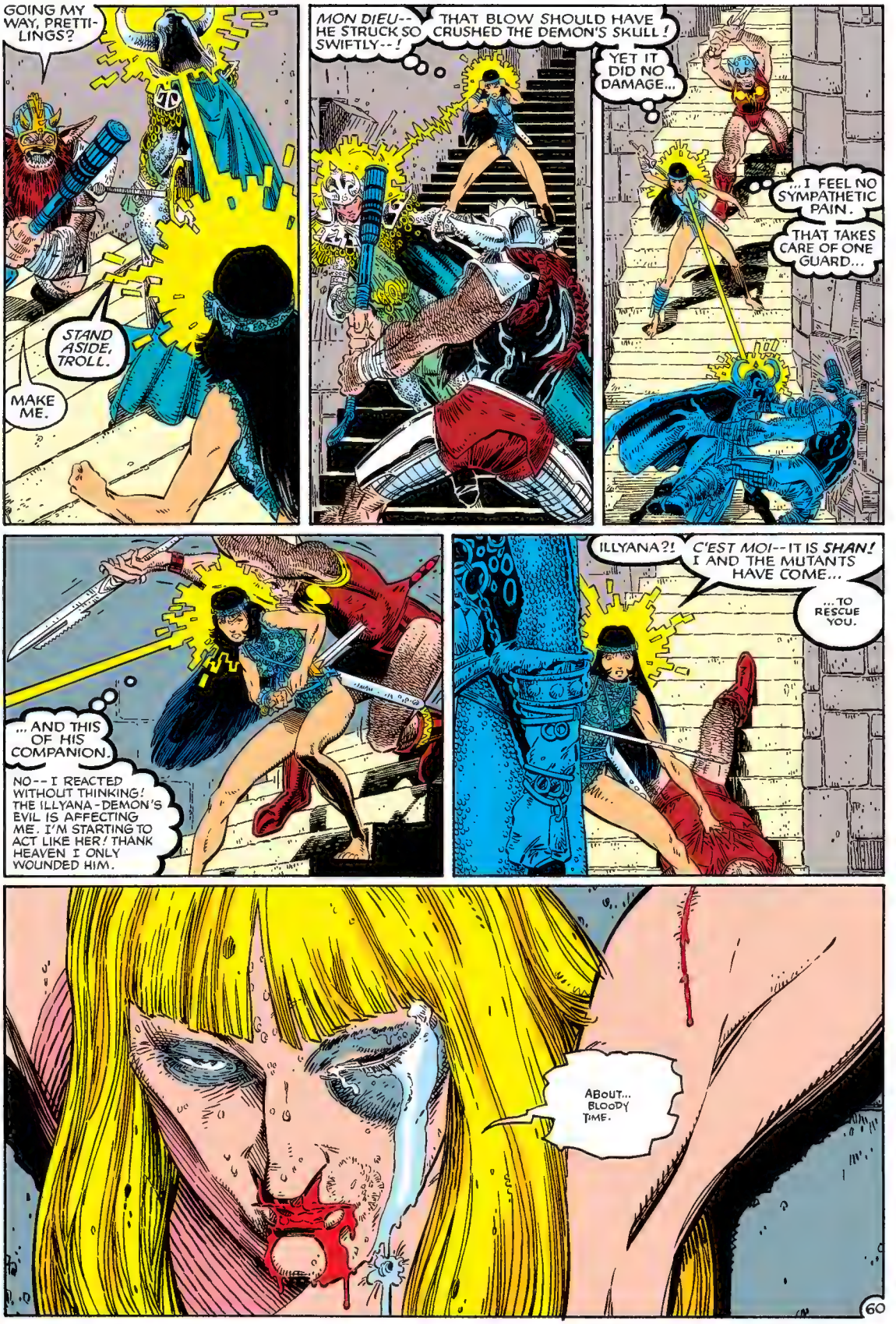

WAY TO GO, EITRI! THAT DWARF SOOTHSAYER WAS A CREEPY OLD DUDE...
...BUT HIS SPELL LED US RIGHT TO THE OTHERS!
IN THE NICK O' TIME, LOOKS LIKE.
P-PLEASE, SAM! MUST THEE FLY SO HIGH-- AND S-SO FAST?!
'MARA DIDN'T USED TO BE SCARED WHEN AH TOOK HER FLYING. HER CHANGE IS A LOT MORE THAN SKIN-DEEP!
PCHAM!
THAT ROAR--AND EXPLOSION -- IT MUST BE SAM!
SHAN--?!?
Oh, NO-- THAT DEMON'S GOT THE DROP ON HER!
SO MUCH FOR FRIENDSHIP, eh, DANI?
ILLYANA--?!!
BY MY ANCESTORS, WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
CONSOLE THYSELF, CHIEF. THE WEAPON DOTH NOT EXIST WHICH CAN DO THIS FORM HARM.
A PITY THAT NEITHER IS THERE ONE ABLE TO SAFEGUARD THEE FROM ME!
WHEREFORE THY PROUD BOAST NOW, KARMA?
BOOOM!

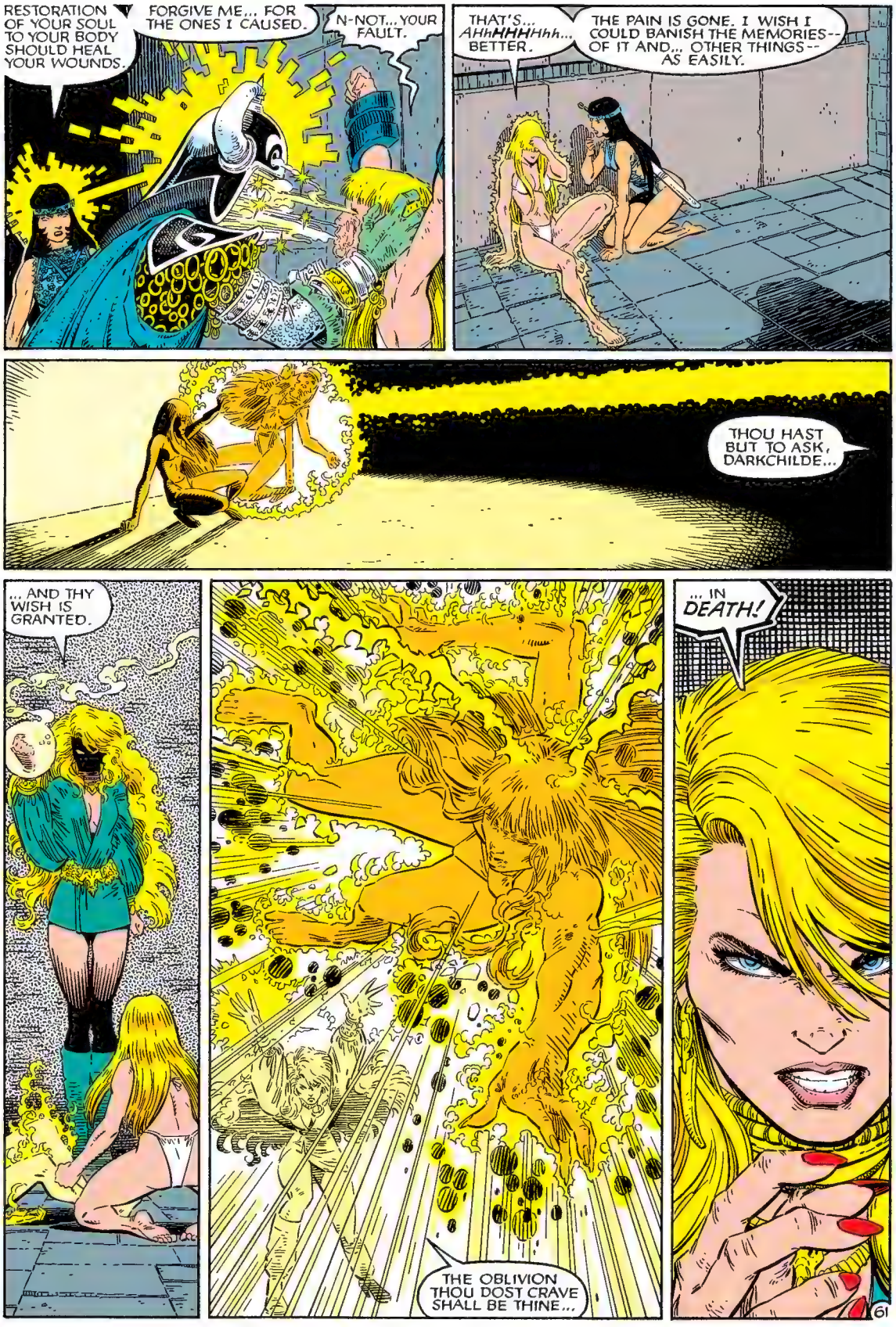

NICE SAVE, FELLAS.
YEAH--BUT WE CAN'T PULL THAT STUNT ON ARMOR WITH PEOPLE INSIDE IT. DANI, WHAT'LL WE DO ABOUT THEM?!
THOU CANST NEITHER WIN NOR ESCAPE. WHY THEN PROLONG THIS NEEDLESS, POINTLESS AGONY.
YIELD.
ELSEWHERE...
IMPOSSIBLE!
SHE IS MORTAL AND NOT OF THE ANCIENT BLOOD--YET SHE RIDES ONE OF THE SACRED HERD! THOUGH SHE SUSPECTS IT NOT...
...DANIELLE MOONSTAR HATH JOINED THE VALKRYOR!
SHE IS ONE OF ODIN'S CHOOSERS OF THE SLAIN--A VALKYRIE!
THOSE ACCURSED WARRIOR-WOMEN ARE IMMUNE TO MINE ENCHANTMENTS. THE VALKRYOR HAVE ALREADY CLAIMED THE GIRL'S SOUL...
...I CANNOT STEAL IT.
"SHE IS TOO DANGEROUS...
"...TO BE ALLOWED ANOTHER BREATH."
YOU AND ME, ILLYANA?! OKAY, I'M READY!
WAIT, DANIELLE--LET ME TRY FIRST!
AIOWW--
OHH?!?!!
MY SCRYING CRYSTAL--SHATTERED!
WITHOUT IT, MY SLAVES' THOUGHTS ARE DENIED ME!
HAS MY DEMON BEEN SLAIN? NO MATTER--SO LONG AS I HAVE HER BODY IN MY DUNGEON, SHE IS NO THREAT.
TEN THOUSAND CURSES BE ON THAT GOLDENSKINNED HARLOT'S HEAD--WHAT DID SHE DO, WHAT POWER DID SHE MANIFEST?!
THE WENCH'S ORDEAL ON THE DESERT SERVED HER WELL, TOUGHENING HER IN BOTH FLESH AND SPIRIT. SHE IS A MOST FORMIDABLE FOE--ANOTHER, LIKE THE NEW-BORN VALKYRIE, I MUST SLAY, THE INSTANT I SEE HER.

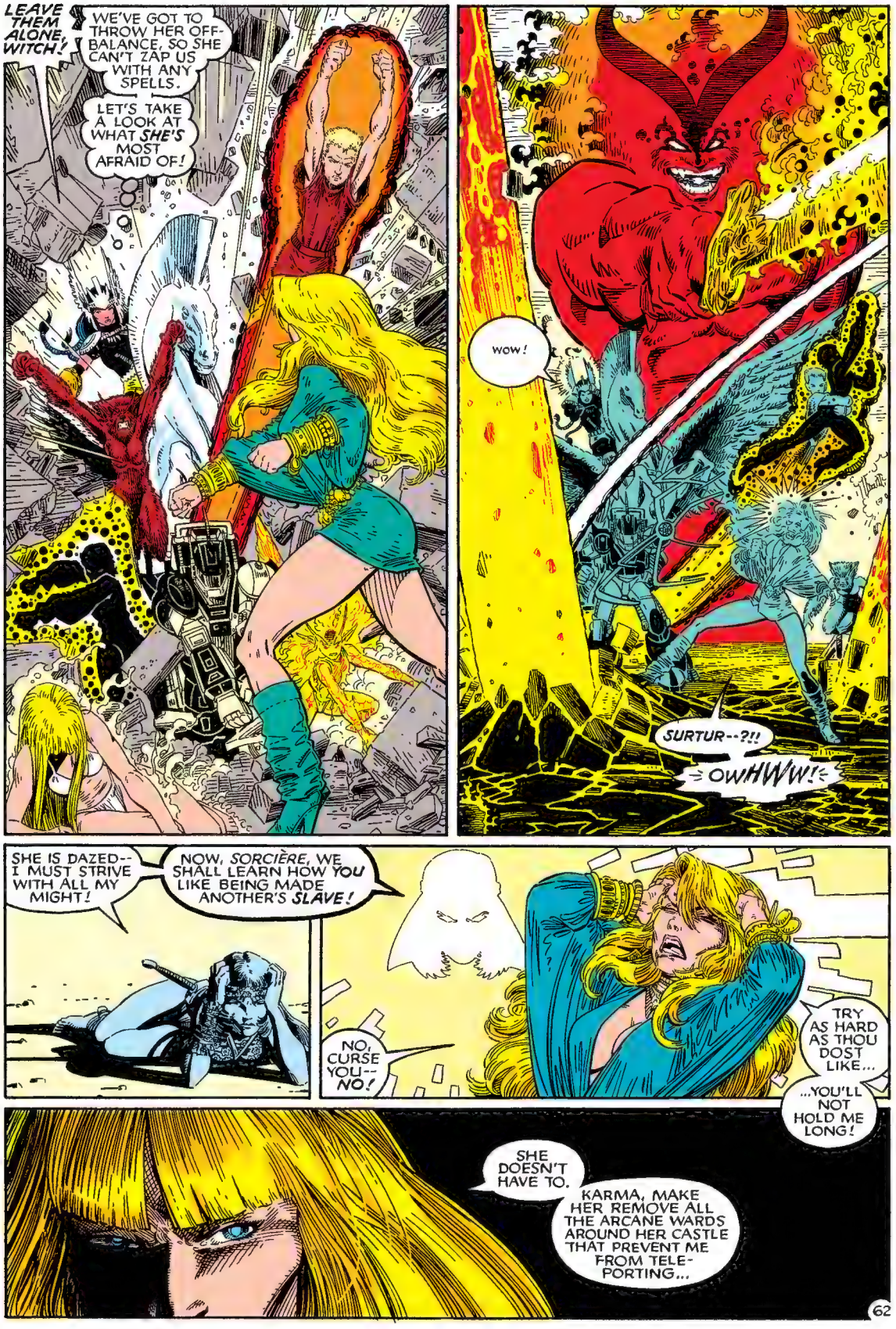

THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
MISTRESS--RIDERS AT THE GATE!
THY DEMON-HORDE--RETURNING TRIUMPHANT!!
SO IT WOULD APPEAR.
TIDY MY BED-CHAMBER, GRÖVIG, WHILE I DRESS TO GREET THEM.
THEN, IMMOLATE THYSELF--FOR ENTERING WITHOUT PERMISSION.
Sigh.
GOOD HELP IS SO HARD TO FIND.
PERHAPS I SHALL REPLACE MY CRETINOUS TROLLS WITH THESE CHILDREN?
AND SHOULD THE X-MEN'S POWERS PROVE, IN TIME, THE EQUAL OF LOKI'S-- HAH!
WOULD NOT THAT BE A DELIGHTFUL IRONY?!
GUESS AGAIN, WITCH!
THE JOKE'S ON YOU!
SURPRISE, FIEND!

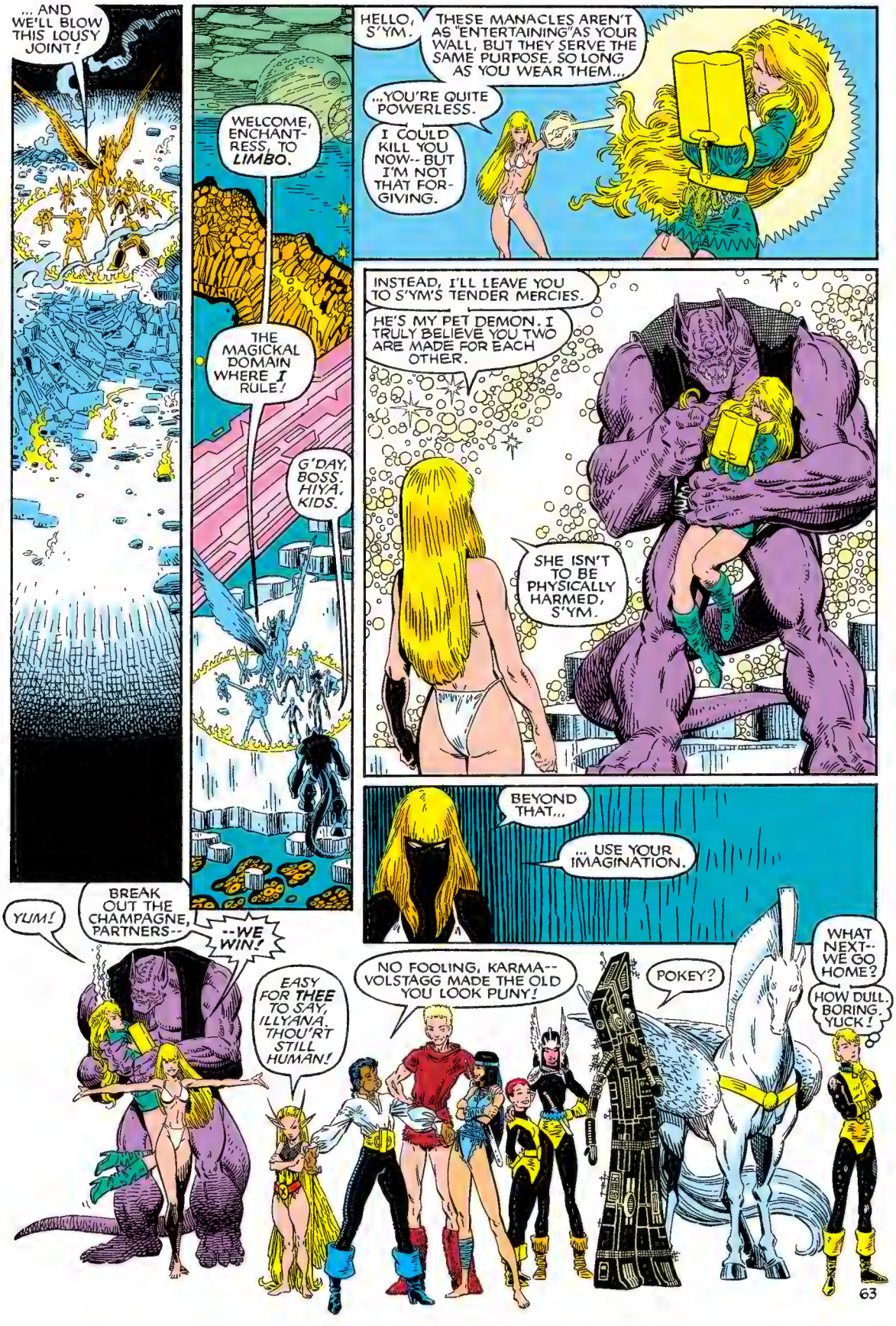
THANKS TO KARMA, WE ARE FREE!
AND FOR THE RECORD, BRUJA-- IF IT'S THE X-MEN YOU WANT, YOU'VE MADE A BIG MISTAKE!
WE ARE THE NEW MUTANTS!
TELL HELA, BRAT!
THOU SHALT SOON BE GREETING HER--
-- IN NIFFLEHEIM!
DANI-- THE ENCHANTRESS IS GETTING AWAY!
WE CAN'T CHASE HER, WE'RE TOO BUSY FIGHTING HER GOONS!
THERE'S NO END TO THIS MOB. I NEED SOME WAY OF EVENING THE ODDS.
FROM THE TROLLS' MINDS, MIRAGE PULLS THE IMAGE OF WHAT THEY FEAR MOST...
...AND MANIFESTS IT, TO MOST IMPRESSIVE EFFECT.
LORD ODIN!
THE ALL-FATHER!
FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES, BROTHERS-- FLEE!

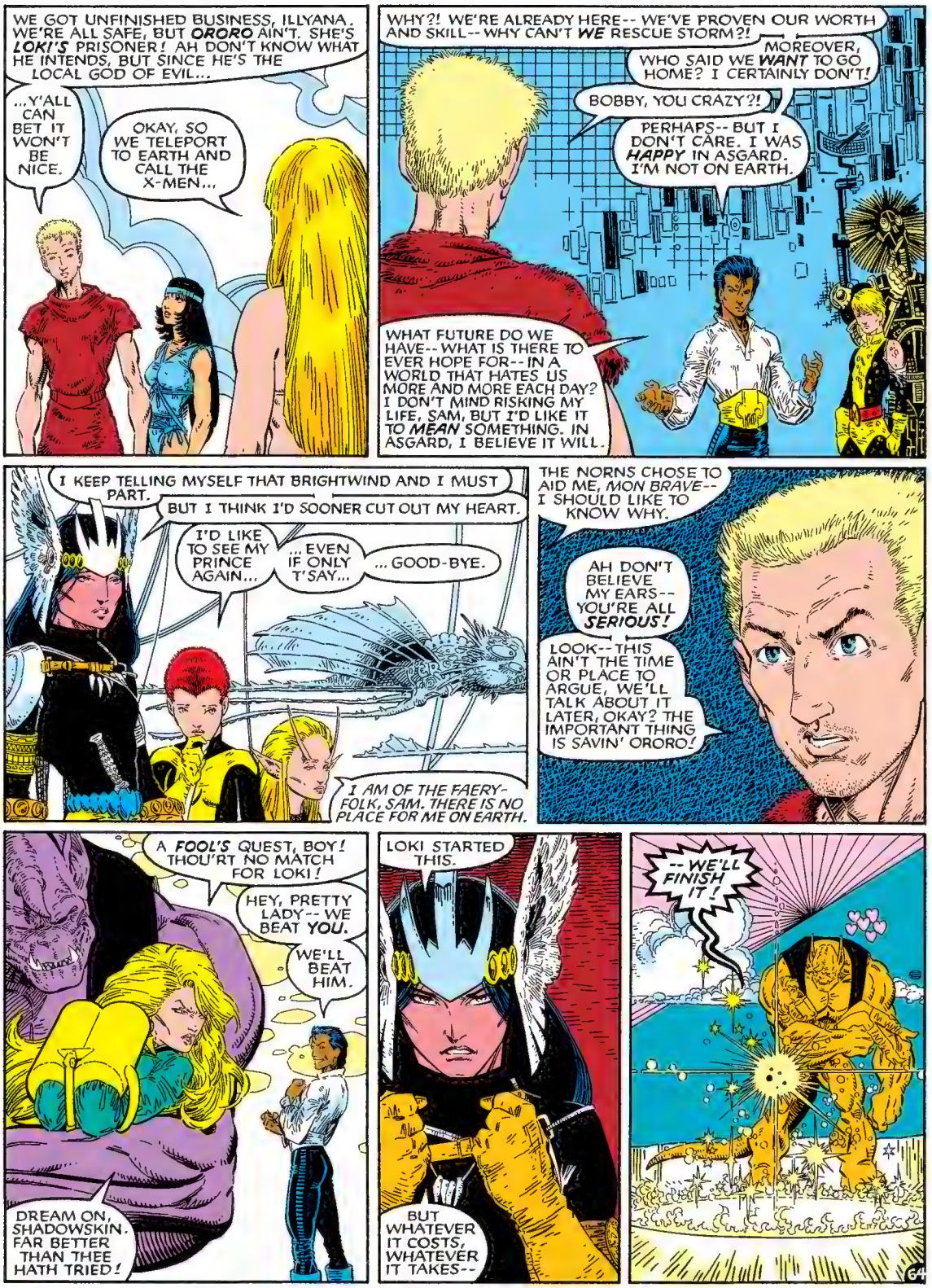

THE FEW TROLLS...
...THAT STAND THEIR GROUND...
...ARE SPEEDILY DISPATCHED.
THIS IS GREAT!
IT'S THE KIND OF ADVENTURE I ALWAYS DREAMED OF-- INDIANA JONES, LUKE SKYWALKER AND PRINCE VALIANT, ALL ROLLED INTO ONE!
HEY, 'LOCK-- DO WE MAKE A TEAM SUPREME, OR WHAT?!
SELF HAS NO COMPLAINTS, FRIENDOUG. IF SELFRIEND IS HAPPY, SELF IS HAPPY.
MEANWHILE...
IT TAKES SO MUCH OF MY WILL AND STRENGTH TO HOLD ILLYANA IN THRALL, I CAN BARELY STAND.
THE DEMON'S ESSENCE IS SO FOUL--SO UTTERLY EVIL-- MY MENTAL LINK BETWEEN US SICKENS ME. BUT I MUST MAINTAIN IT. THIS WAYWARD PIECE OF ILLYANA'S SOUL MUST BE RETURNED TO HER BODY.
AT LEAST, WHEN THE VILLAIN FAROUK POSSESSED ME, THE EVIL CAME FROM OUTSIDE MYSELF-- IT WAS NEVER ME-- ILLYANA'S, THOUGH, IS PART AND PARCEL OF HER VERY BEING. HOWEVER CAN SHE ENDURE IT?!
THE DEMON'S MEMORIES PLACE HER IN THE DUNGEONS, AT THE BOTTOM OF THESE STAIRS.


GOING MY WAY, PRETTI-LINGS?
STAND ASIDE, TROLL.
MAKE ME.
MON DIEU-- HE STRUCK SO SWIFTLY--!
THAT BLOW SHOULD HAVE CRUSHED THE DEMON'S SKULL!
YET IT DID NO DAMAGE...
...I FEEL NO SYMPATHETIC PAIN.
THAT TAKES CARE OF ONE GUARD...
...AND THIS OF HIS COMPANION.
NO-- I REACTED WITHOUT THINKING! THE ILLYANA-DEMON'S EVIL IS AFFECTING ME. I'M STARTING TO ACT LIKE HER! THANK HEAVEN I ONLY WOUNDED HIM.
ILLYANA?!
C'EST MOI-- IT IS SHAN! I AND THE MUTANTS HAVE COME...
...TO RESCUE YOU.
ABOUT... BLOODY TIME.


RESTORATION OF YOUR SOUL TO YOUR BODY SHOULD HEAL YOUR WOUNDS.
FORGIVE ME... FOR THE ONES I CAUSED.
N-NOT... YOUR FAULT.
THAT'S... AHhHHHHhh... BETTER.
THE PAIN IS GONE. I WISH I COULD BANISH THE MEMORIES-- OF IT AND... OTHER THINGS-- AS EASILY.
THOU HAST BUT TO ASK, DARKCHILDE...
... AND THY WISH IS GRANTED.
THE OBLIVION THOU DOST CRAVE SHALL BE THINE...
... IN DEATH!


LEAVE THEM ALONE, WITCH!
WE'VE GOT TO THROW HER OFF-BALANCE, SO SHE CAN'T ZAP US WITH ANY SPELLS.
LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT SHE'S MOST AFRAID OF!
WOW!
SURTUR--?!!
OWHWW!
SHE IS DAZED--I MUST STRIVE WITH ALL MY MIGHT!
NOW, SORCIÈRE, WE SHALL LEARN HOW YOU LIKE BEING MADE ANOTHER'S SLAVE!
NO, CURSE YOU--NO!
TRY AS HARD AS THOU DOST LIKE...
...YOU'LL NOT HOLD ME LONG!
SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO.
KARMA, MAKE HER REMOVE ALL THE ARCANE WARDS AROUND HER CASTLE THAT PREVENT ME FROM TELE-PORTING...


... AND WE'LL BLOW THIS LOUSY JOINT!
WELCOME, ENCHANTRESS, TO LIMBO.
THE MAGICKAL DOMAIN WHERE I RULE!
G'DAY, BOSS. HIYA, KIDS.
HELLO, S'YM.
THESE MANACLES AREN'T AS "ENTERTAINING" AS YOUR WALL, BUT THEY SERVE THE SAME PURPOSE. SO LONG AS YOU WEAR THEM...
...YOU'RE QUITE POWERLESS.
I COULD KILL YOU NOW-- BUT I'M NOT THAT FORGIVING.
INSTEAD, I'LL LEAVE YOU TO S'YM'S TENDER MERCIES.
HE'S MY PET DEMON. I TRULY BELIEVE YOU TWO ARE MADE FOR EACH OTHER.
SHE ISN'T TO BE PHYSICALLY HARMED, S'YM.
BEYOND THAT...
... USE YOUR IMAGINATION.
YUM!
BREAK OUT THE CHAMPAGNE, PARTNERS--
--WE WIN!
EASY FOR THEE TO SAY, ILLYANA. THOU'RT STILL HUMAN!
NO FOOLING, KARMA-- VOLSTAGG MADE THE OLD YOU LOOK PUNY!
POKEY?
WHAT NEXT-- WE GO HOME?
HOW DULL. BORING. YUCK!


WE GOT UNFINISHED BUSINESS, ILLYANA. WE'RE ALL SAFE, BUT ORORO AIN'T. SHE'S LOKI'S PRISONER! AH DON'T KNOW WHAT HE INTENDS, BUT SINCE HE'S THE LOCAL GOD OF EVIL...
...Y'ALL CAN BET IT WON'T BE NICE.
OKAY, SO WE TELEPORT TO EARTH AND CALL THE X-MEN...
WHY?! WE'RE ALREADY HERE-- WE'VE PROVEN OUR WORTH AND SKILL-- WHY CAN'T WE RESCUE STORM?!
MOREOVER, WHO SAID WE WANT TO GO HOME? I CERTAINLY DON'T!
BOBBY, YOU CRAZY?!
PERHAPS-- BUT I DON'T CARE. I WAS HAPPY IN ASGARD. I'M NOT ON EARTH.
WHAT FUTURE DO WE HAVE-- WHAT IS THERE TO EVER HOPE FOR-- IN A WORLD THAT HATES US MORE AND MORE EACH DAY? I DON'T MIND RISKING MY LIFE, SAM, BUT I'D LIKE IT TO MEAN SOMETHING. IN ASGARD, I BELIEVE IT WILL.
I KEEP TELLING MYSELF THAT BRIGHTWIND AND I MUST PART.
BUT I THINK I'D SOONER CUT OUT MY HEART.
I'D LIKE TO SEE MY PRINCE AGAIN...
... EVEN IF ONLY T'SAY...
... GOOD-BYE.
I AM OF THE FAERY-FOLK, SAM. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR ME ON EARTH.
THE NORNS CHOSE TO AID ME, MON BRAVE-- I SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY.
AH DON'T BELIEVE MY EARS-- YOU'RE ALL SERIOUS!
LOOK-- THIS AIN'T THE TIME OR PLACE TO ARGUE, WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER, OKAY? THE IMPORTANT THING IS SAVIN' ORORO!
A FOOL'S QUEST, BOY! THOU'RT NO MATCH FOR LOKI!
HEY, PRETTY LADY-- WE BEAT YOU.
WE'LL BEAT HIM.
DREAM ON, SHADOWSKIN. FAR BETTER THAN THEE HATH TRIED!
LOKI STARTED THIS.
BUT WHATEVER IT COSTS, WHATEVER IT TAKES--
-- WE'LL FINISH IT!
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TO BE CONCLUDED -- IN X-MEN ANNUAL #9 --

"THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!"

MARVEL
GIANT-SIZED ANNUAL
X-MEN
THE SAGA OF
STORM
GODDESS OF THUNDER!
$1.25
9
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ART ADAMS

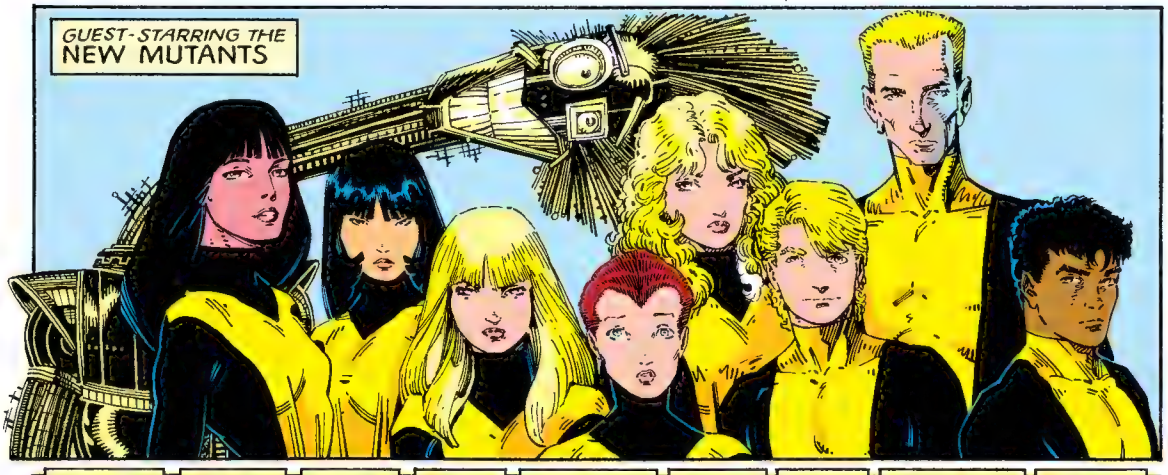
PHOENIX | CYCLOPS | STORM | COLOSSUS | WOLVERINE | NIGHTCRAWLER | SHADOWCAT | ROGUE

STAN LEE *PRESENTS*

THERE'S NO LIKE PLACE LIKE HOME

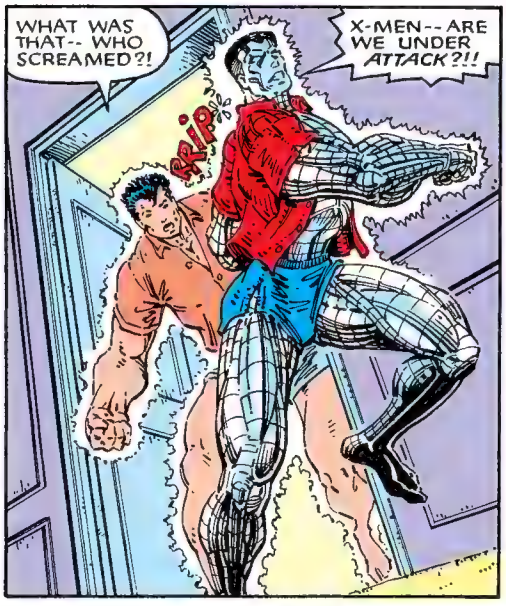
CHRIS CLAREMONT — *writer*
ARTHUR ADAMS — *penciler*
ALAN GORDON & MIKE MIGNOLA & ART ADAMS — *inkers*

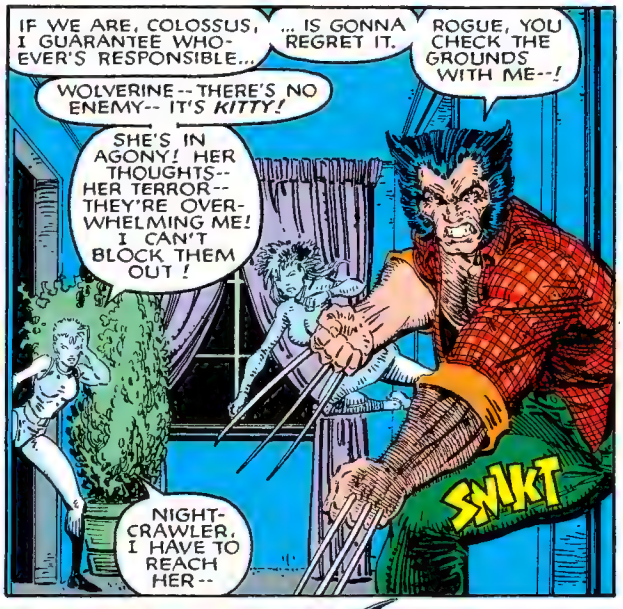
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, *letterer* PETRA SCOTESE, *colorist* ANN NOCENTI, *editor* JIM SHOOTER, *chief*



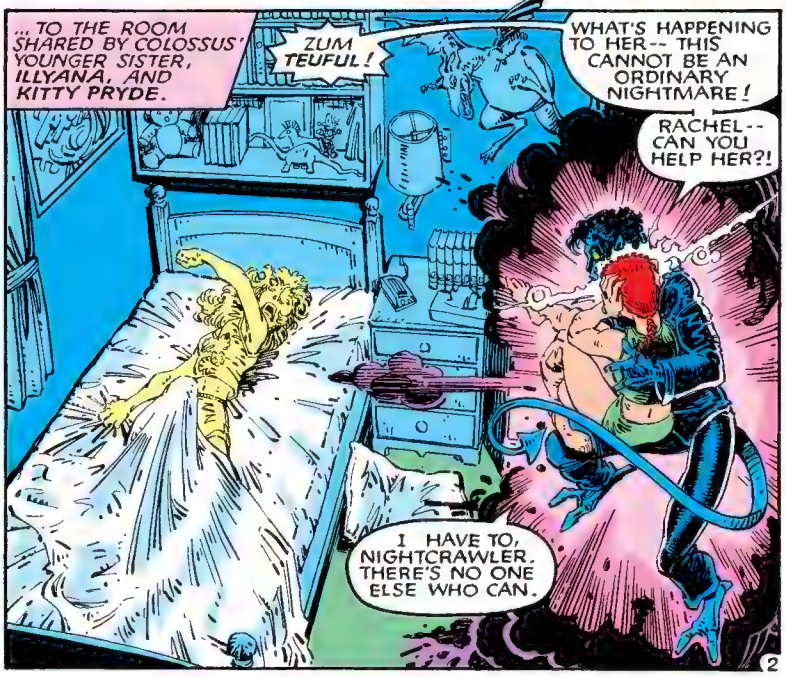
WARLOCK | MIRAGE | KARMA | MAGIK | WOLFSBANE | MAGMA | CYPHER | CANNONBALL | SUNSPOT

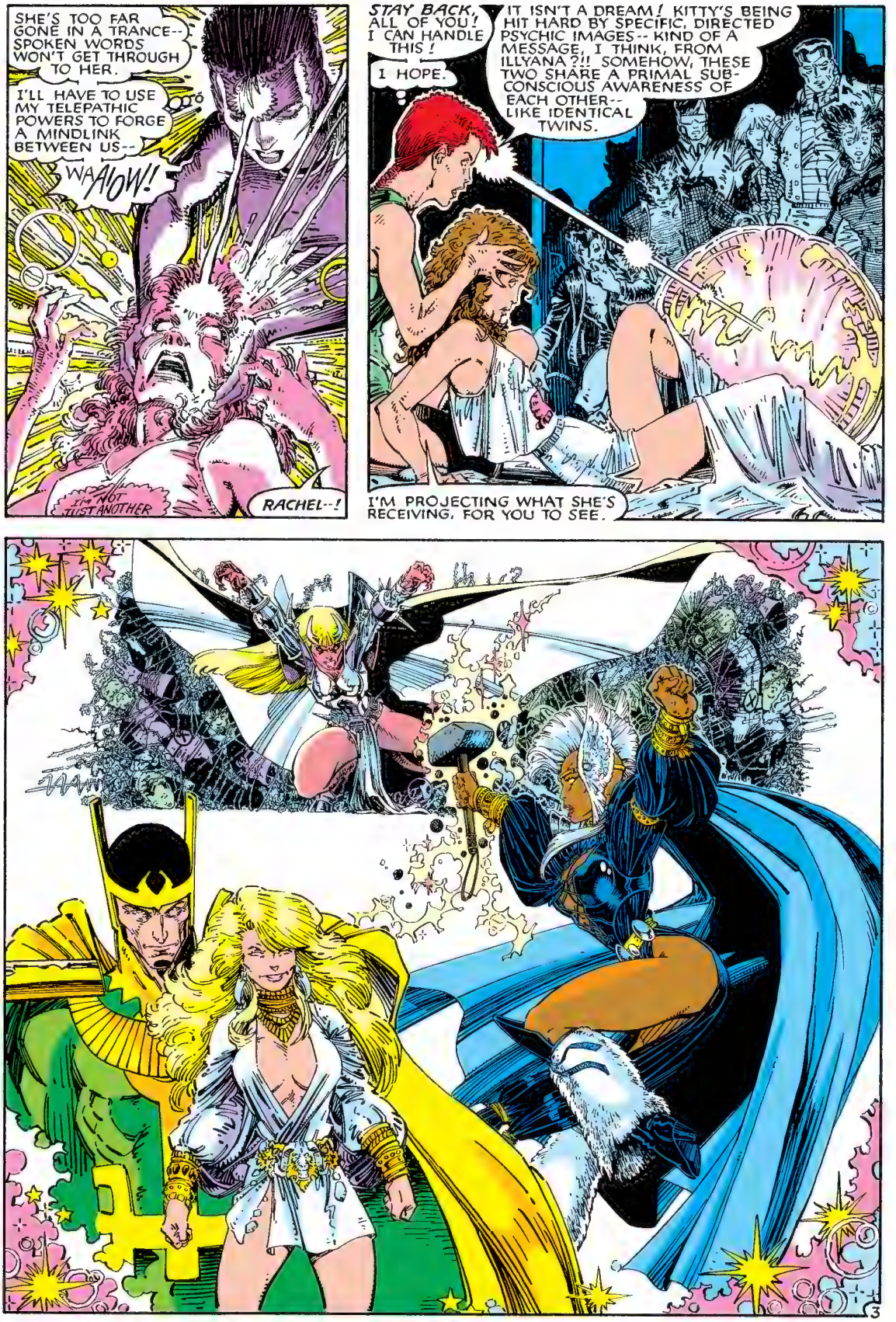
ONE MID-SUMMER'S NIGHT...
EEEEEEEEEEEEEE
... AT PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...

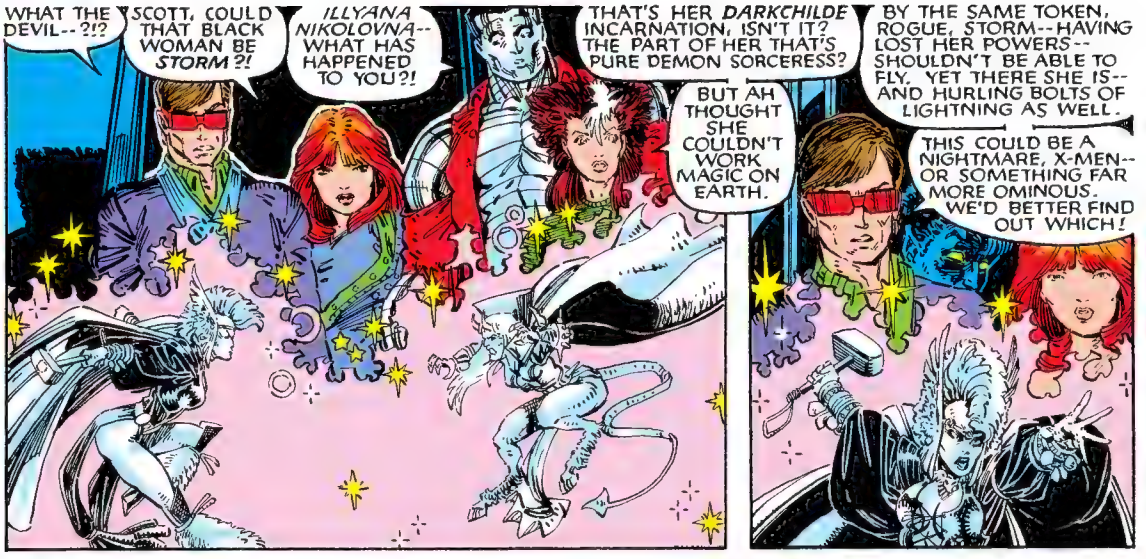

WHAT WAS THAT-- WHO SCREAMED?!
X-MEN-- ARE WE UNDER ATTACK?!!
RRIP


IF WE ARE, COLOSSUS, I GUARANTEE WHO-EVER'S RESPONSIBLE...
... IS GONNA REGRET IT.
ROGUE, YOU CHECK THE GROUNDS WITH ME--!
WOLVERINE-- THERE'S NO ENEMY-- IT'S KITTY!
SHE'S IN AGONY! HER THOUGHTS-- HER TERROR-- THEY'RE OVER-WHELMING ME! I CAN'T BLOCK THEM OUT!
NIGHT-CRAWLER, I HAVE TO REACH HER--
SMKT

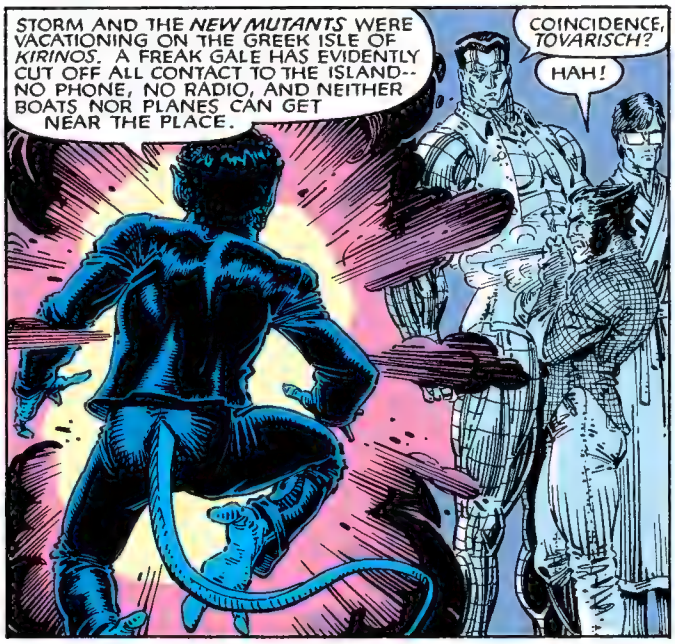
NO PROBLEM, RACHEL. I'LL HAVE YOU BY HER SIDE...
... IN NO TIME AT ALL.
BAMF
AND WITH THAT, KURT WAGNER TELEPORTS FROM THE HALL...


... TO THE ROOM SHARED BY COLOSSUS' YOUNGER SISTER, ILLYANA, AND KITTY PRYDE.
ZUM TEUFUL!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HER-- THIS CANNOT BE AN ORDINARY NIGHTMARE!
RACHEL-- CAN YOU HELP HER?!
I HAVE TO, NIGHTCRAWLER. THERE'S NO ONE ELSE WHO CAN.

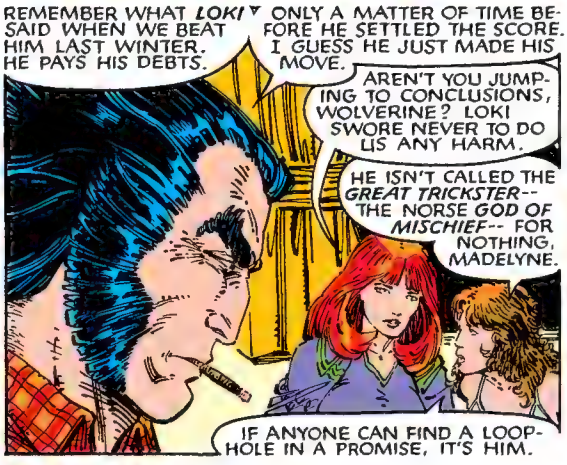

SHE'S TOO FAR GONE IN A TRANCE-- SPOKEN WORDS WON'T GET THROUGH TO HER.
I'LL HAVE TO USE MY TELEPATHIC POWERS TO FORGE A MINDLINK BETWEEN US--
WAAIOW!
I'M NOT JUST ANOTHER
RACHEL--!
STAY BACK, ALL OF YOU! I CAN HANDLE THIS!
I HOPE.
IT ISN'T A DREAM! KITTY'S BEING HIT HARD BY SPECIFIC, DIRECTED PSYCHIC IMAGES-- KIND OF A MESSAGE, I THINK, FROM ILLYANA?!! SOMEHOW, THESE TWO SHARE A PRIMAL SUB-CONSCIOUS AWARENESS OF EACH OTHER-- LIKE IDENTICAL TWINS.
I'M PROJECTING WHAT SHE'S RECEIVING, FOR YOU TO SEE.


WHAT THE DEVIL--?!?
SCOTT, COULD THAT BLACK WOMAN BE *STORM*?!
ILLYANA NIKOLOVNA--WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?!
THAT'S HER *DARKCHILDE* INCARNATION, ISN'T IT? THE PART OF HER THAT'S PURE DEMON SORCERESS?
BUT AH THOUGHT SHE COULDN'T WORK MAGIC ON EARTH.
BY THE SAME TOKEN, ROGUE, STORM--HAVING LOST HER POWERS--SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FLY. YET THERE SHE IS--AND HURLING BOLTS OF LIGHTNING AS WELL.
THIS COULD BE A NIGHTMARE, X-MEN--OR SOMETHING FAR MORE OMINOUS. WE'D BETTER FIND OUT WHICH!

AN HOUR LATER, STILL IN KITTY'S AND ILLYANA'S BEDROOM...

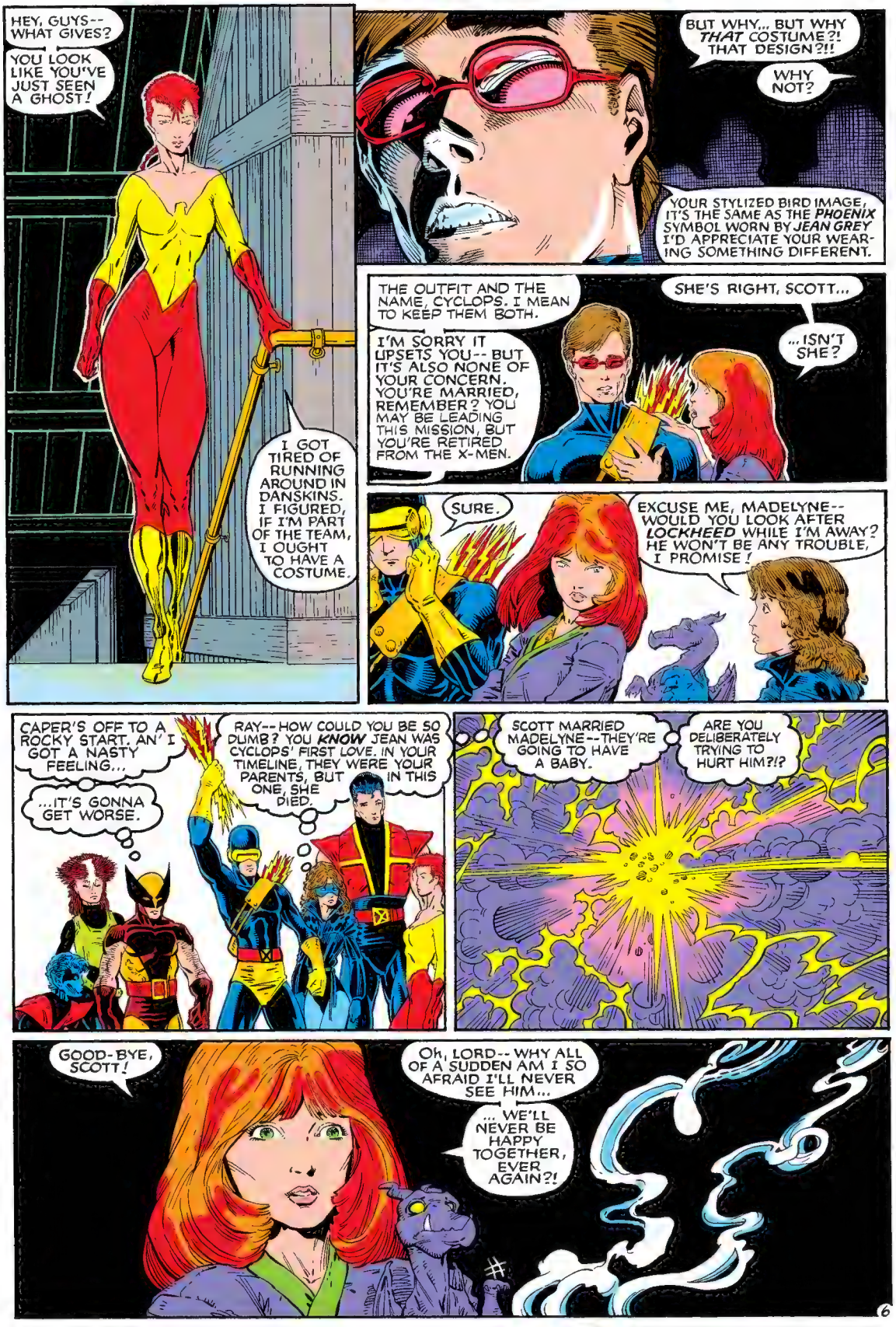

STORM AND THE *NEW MUTANTS* WERE VACATIONING ON THE GREEK ISLE OF *KIRINOS*. A FREAK GALE HAS EVIDENTLY CUT OFF ALL CONTACT TO THE ISLAND--NO PHONE, NO RADIO, AND NEITHER BOATS NOR PLANES CAN GET NEAR THE PLACE.
COINCIDENCE, *TOVARISCH*?
HAH!

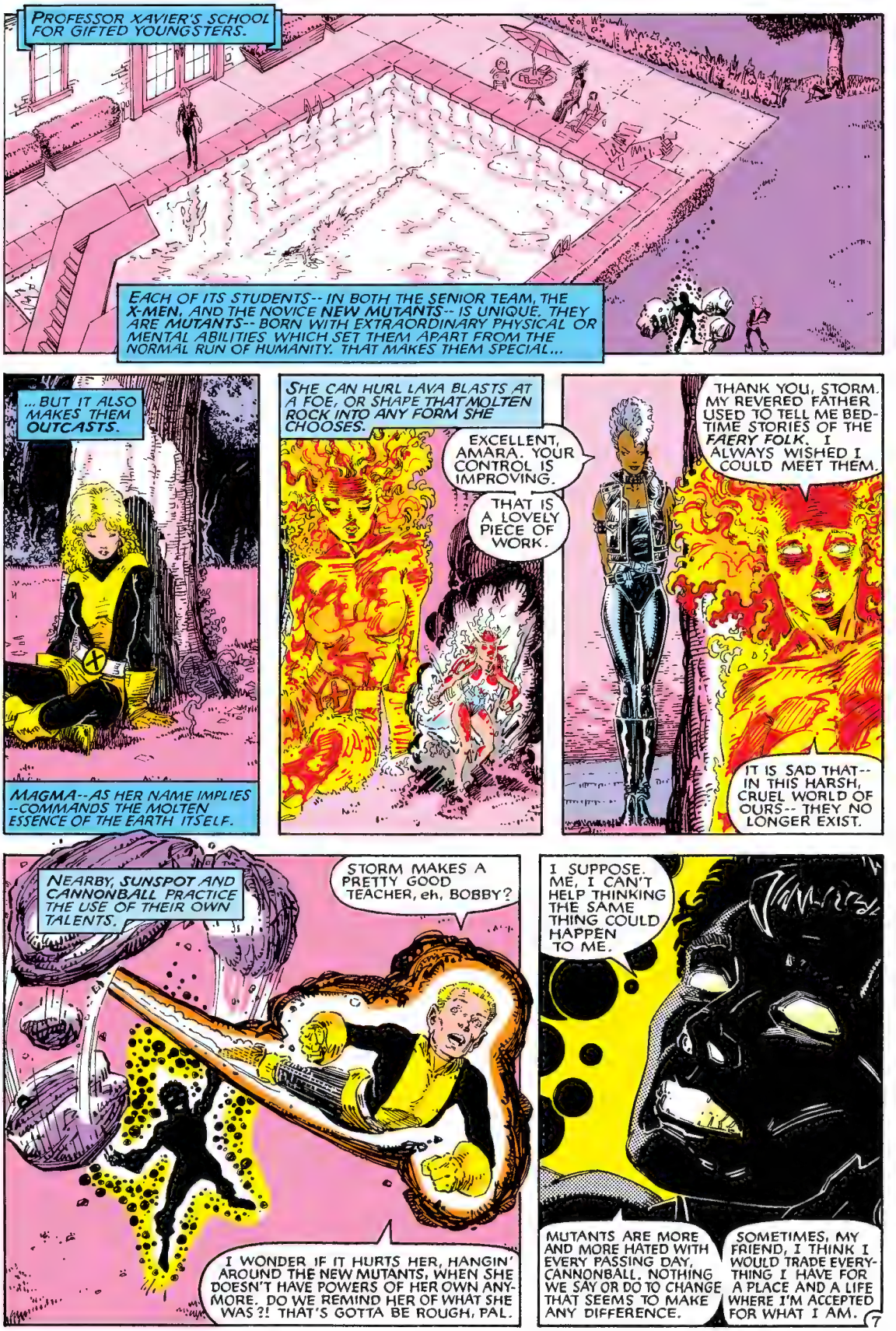
HOW YOU DOIN', KITTY?
DON'T ASK.
WISH AH COULD HELP. AH WANT'A OFFER MY SHOULDER TO CRY ON, LIKE MADELYNE'S DOING--BUT AH DON'T DARE RISK KITTY, OR ANYONE, TOUCHIN' MY BARE SKIN. 'CAUSE IF THEY DO, AH'LL STEAL THEIR MINDS AND POWERS.
Y'KNOW, CYCLOPS--STORM'S OUTFIT, AN' THAT HAMMER SHE WAS SWINGIN', REMIND ME OF PICTURES AH'VE SEEN OF *THOR* AN' THOSE ASGARD FOLKS.


REMEMBER WHAT *LOKI* SAID WHEN WE BEAT HIM LAST WINTER. HE PAYS HIS DEBTS.
ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE SETTLED THE SCORE. I GUESS HE JUST MADE HIS MOVE.
AREN'T YOU JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS, WOLVERINE? LOKI SWORE NEVER TO DO US ANY HARM.
HE ISN'T CALLED THE *GREAT TRICKSTER*--THE NORSE *GOD OF MISCHIEF*--FOR NOTHING, MADELYNE.
IF ANYONE CAN FIND A LOOPHOLE IN A PROMISE, IT'S HIM.

KITTY'S RIGHT! THOSE IMAGES WERE A DESPERATE PSYCHIC "S.O.S." AND EVERY INSTINCT I HAVE TELLS ME *ASGARD* IS WHERE IT CAME FROM!
FIGURES THAT SLIMEBUCKET WOULD TRY TO HURT US THROUGH THE MUTANTS. THEY'RE JUST KIDS--NO MATCH FOR HIM.
XAVIER'S SCHOOL LOOKS AFTER ITS OWN. IF THE NEW MUTANTS ARE IN DANGER, IT'S THE *X-MEN'S* JOB TO GO TO THE *RESCUE!*

AND SO...
NO LUCK, CYCLOPS--NEAR AS I CAN DETERMINE, THOR IS IN ASGARD. IF WE WANT THE GOD OF THUNDER'S AID, WE'LL HAVE TO GET IT THERE.
SO WHO SAYS WE NEED HIM, CHUM? WE'RE A PRETTY HOT ACT ON OUR OWN.
DON'T GET COCKY, ROGUE. YOU MAY NOT BE THE ONE WHO PAYS THE PRICE.
MADELYNE, PROFESSOR XAVIER'S IN ENGLAND.
TELL HIM WHAT WE'VE DONE AND WHERE WE'VE GONE. IN MY OPINION, THE MUTANTS' SITUATION IS DESPERATE--WE CAN'T WAIT TO CHECK WITH HIM FIRST. I HATE LEAVING, WITH THE BABY ALMOST DUE...
I UNDERSTAND. THOSE KIDS ARE COUNTING ON YOU. DON'T WORRY, SCOTT, I'LL BE ALL RIGHT--BUT HOW WILL YOU GET TO ASGARD?!
THESE LIGHTNING BOLTS...
...WERE CREATED BY ARKON THE IMPERION TO TELEPORT HIMSELF BETWEEN DIMENSIONS. HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE THEM. THE RIGHT COMBINATION SHOULD TAKE US TO ASGARD.
AN' THE WRONG COMBINATION--?
WHERE'LL THAT TAKE US, SUGAR?
DON'T LET ROGUE RATTLE YOU, HON. WE'LL BE FINE--
--AND HOME WITH THE KIDS, SAFE AND SOUND, BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.
READY, X-MEN?
WAITIN' ON RACHEL--
OBOY!?!
ACH DU LEIBER--?!!
CUTE, KIDDO--REAL CUTE.
Gasp!
RACHEL, HOW COULD YOU--?!?
BY THE WHITE WOLF--!


HEY, GUYS-- WHAT GIVES?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE JUST SEEN A GHOST!
I GOT TIRED OF RUNNING AROUND IN DANSKINS. I FIGURED, IF I'M PART OF THE TEAM, I OUGHT TO HAVE A COSTUME.
BUT WHY... BUT WHY THAT COSTUME?! THAT DESIGN?!!
WHY NOT?
YOUR STYLIZED BIRD IMAGE, IT'S THE SAME AS THE PHOENIX SYMBOL WORN BY JEAN GREY I'D APPRECIATE YOUR WEARING SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
THE OUTFIT AND THE NAME, CYCLOPS. I MEAN TO KEEP THEM BOTH.
I'M SORRY IT UPSETS YOU-- BUT IT'S ALSO NONE OF YOUR CONCERN. YOU'RE MARRIED, REMEMBER? YOU MAY BE LEADING THIS MISSION, BUT YOU'RE RETIRED FROM THE X-MEN.
SHE'S RIGHT, SCOTT...
...ISN'T SHE?
SURE.
EXCUSE ME, MADELYNE-- WOULD YOU LOOK AFTER LOCKHEED WHILE I'M AWAY? HE WON'T BE ANY TROUBLE, I PROMISE!
CAPER'S OFF TO A ROCKY START. AN' I GOT A NASTY FEELING...
...IT'S GONNA GET WORSE.
RAY--HOW COULD YOU BE SO DUMB? YOU KNOW JEAN WAS CYCLOPS' FIRST LOVE. IN YOUR TIMELINE, THEY WERE YOUR PARENTS, BUT IN THIS ONE, SHE DIED.
SCOTT MARRIED MADELYNE--THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE A BABY.
ARE YOU DELIBERATELY TRYING TO HURT HIM?!?
GOOD-BYE, SCOTT!
Oh, LORD-- WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN AM I SO AFRAID I'LL NEVER SEE HIM...
... WE'LL NEVER BE HAPPY TOGETHER, EVER AGAIN?!

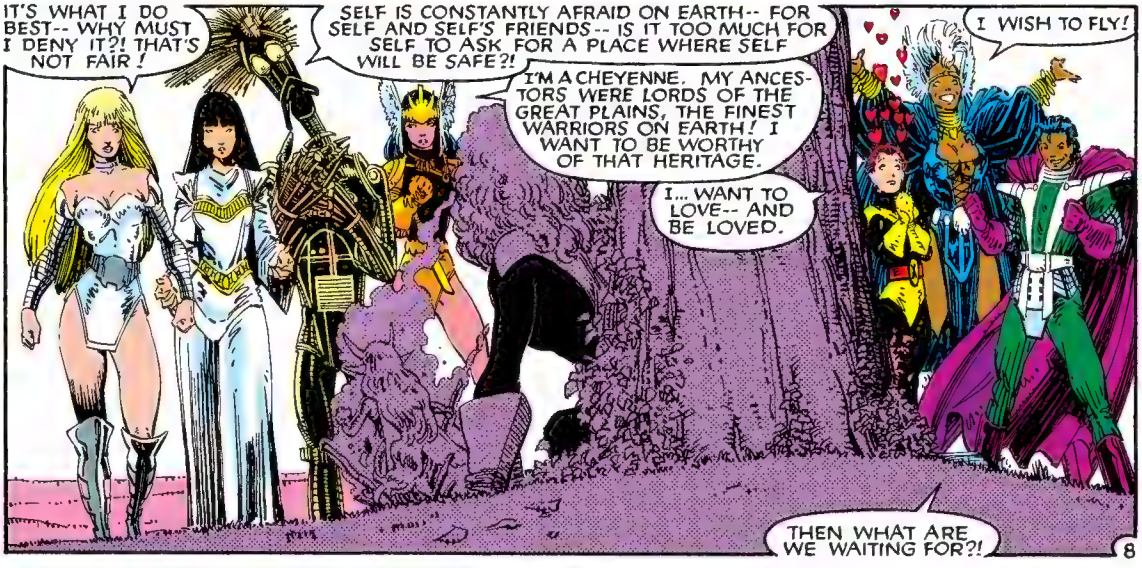

PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
EACH OF ITS STUDENTS-- IN BOTH THE SENIOR TEAM, THE X-MEN, AND THE NOVICE NEW MUTANTS-- IS UNIQUE. THEY ARE MUTANTS-- BORN WITH EXTRAORDINARY PHYSICAL OR MENTAL ABILITIES WHICH SET THEM APART FROM THE NORMAL RUN OF HUMANITY. THAT MAKES THEM SPECIAL...
... BUT IT ALSO MAKES THEM OUTCASTS.
MAGMA--AS HER NAME IMPLIES --COMMANDS THE MOLTEN ESSENCE OF THE EARTH ITSELF.
SHE CAN HURL LAVA BLASTS AT A FOE, OR SHAPE THAT MOLTEN ROCK INTO ANY FORM SHE CHOOSES.
EXCELLENT, AMARA. YOUR CONTROL IS IMPROVING.
THAT IS A LOVELY PIECE OF WORK.
THANK YOU, STORM. MY REVERED FATHER USED TO TELL ME BEDTIME STORIES OF THE FAERY FOLK. I ALWAYS WISHED I COULD MEET THEM.
IT IS SAD THAT-- IN THIS HARSH, CRUEL WORLD OF OURS-- THEY NO LONGER EXIST.
NEARBY, SUNSPOT AND CANNONBALL PRACTICE THE USE OF THEIR OWN TALENTS.
STORM MAKES A PRETTY GOOD TEACHER, eh, BOBBY?
I WONDER IF IT HURTS HER, HANGIN' AROUND THE NEW MUTANTS, WHEN SHE DOESN'T HAVE POWERS OF HER OWN ANYMORE. DO WE REMIND HER OF WHAT SHE WAS?! THAT'S GOTTA BE ROUGH, PAL.
I SUPPOSE. ME, I CAN'T HELP THINKING THE SAME THING COULD HAPPEN TO ME.
MUTANTS ARE MORE AND MORE HATED WITH EVERY PASSING DAY, CANNONBALL. NOTHING WE SAY OR DO TO CHANGE THAT SEEMS TO MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.
SOMETIMES, MY FRIEND, I THINK I WOULD TRADE EVERYTHING I HAVE FOR A PLACE AND A LIFE WHERE I'M ACCEPTED FOR WHAT I AM.

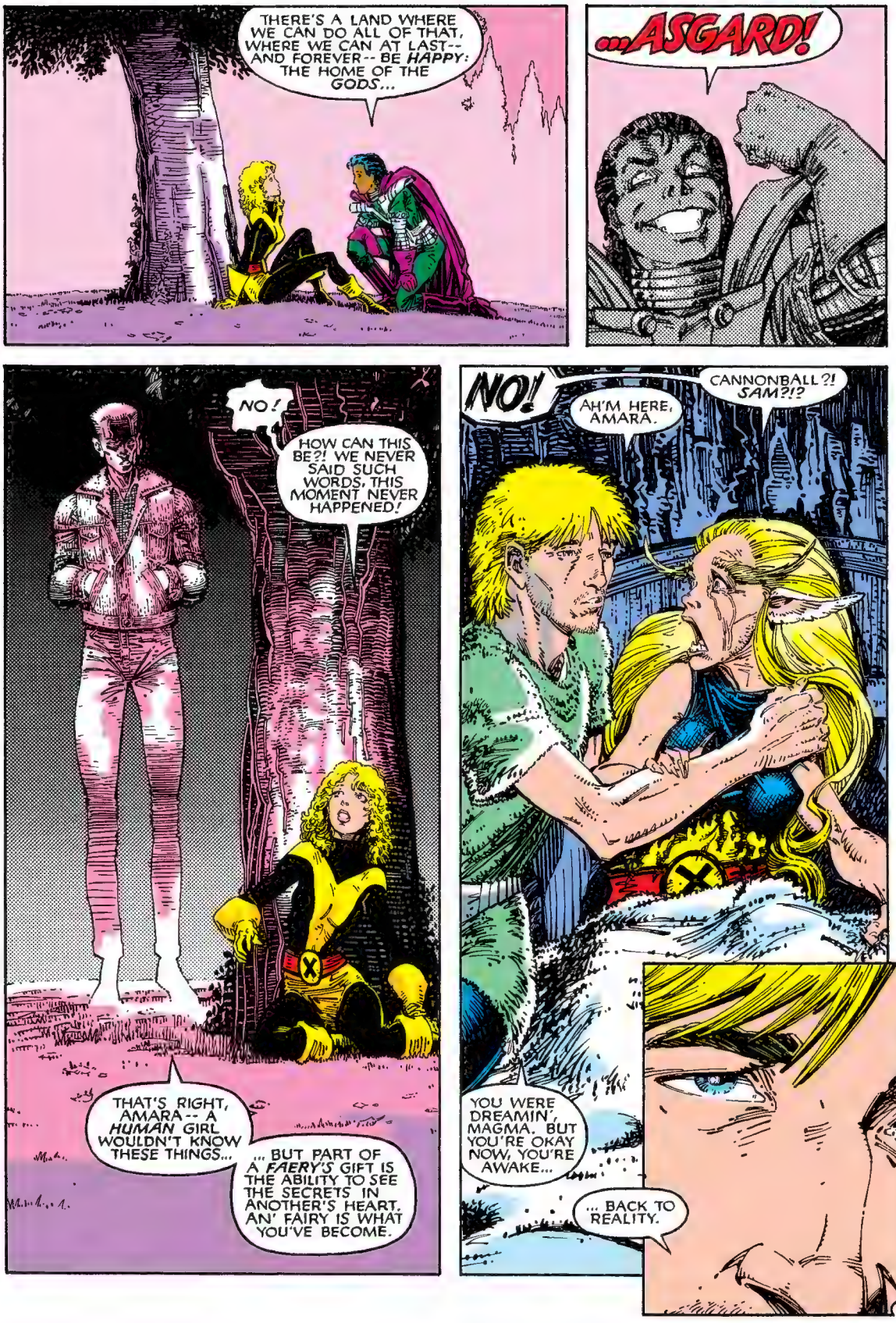
GO AWAY, RAHNE!
I KNOW YOU MEAN WELL, CARROT-TOP-- BUT I'D RATHER BE ALONE.
YOU'RE MY FRIEND, DANI-- MY... SOUL-MATE! I WAS SO AFRAID WHEN I ARRIVED AT THIS SCHOOL-- A STRANGER IN YUIR STRANGE LAND -- BUT YOU GAVE ME THE COURAGE TO STAY.
WHY WON'T YOU LET ME HELP YOU NOW, WHEN YOU NEED IT SO MUCH?!

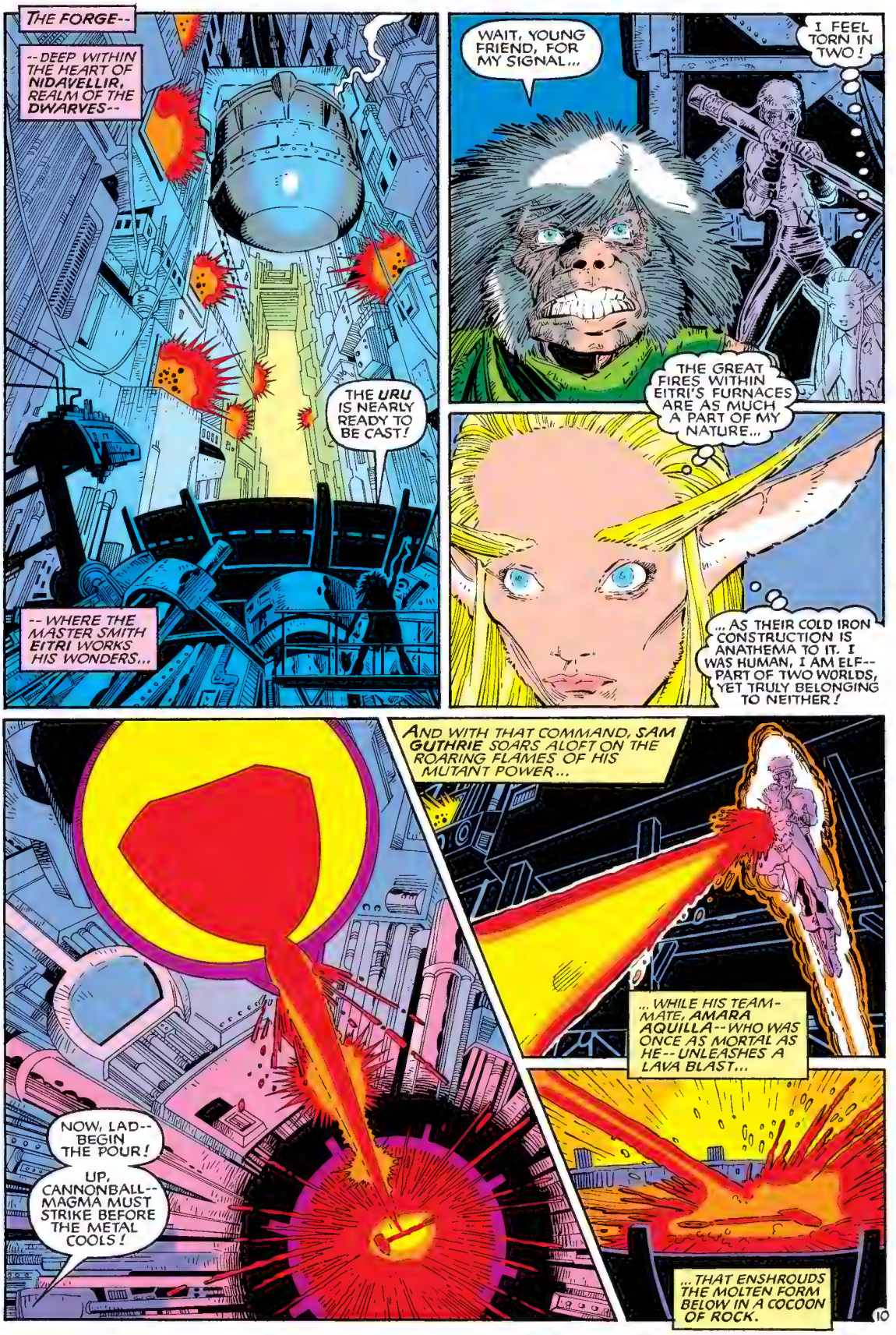
I DON'T NEED TO CREATE SPIRIT-FORM IMAGES-- PULLED FROM MY OWN THOUGHTS-- TO SEE WHAT I'M MOST AFRAID OF.
AS MIRAGE, I'M CO-LEADER OF THE NEW MUTANTS. THEY'RE MY RESPONSIBILITY.
BUT SUPPOSE I'M NO GOOD? SUPPOSE I FAIL?! I DON'T WANT ANYONE HURT OR KILLED BECAUSE OF ME.

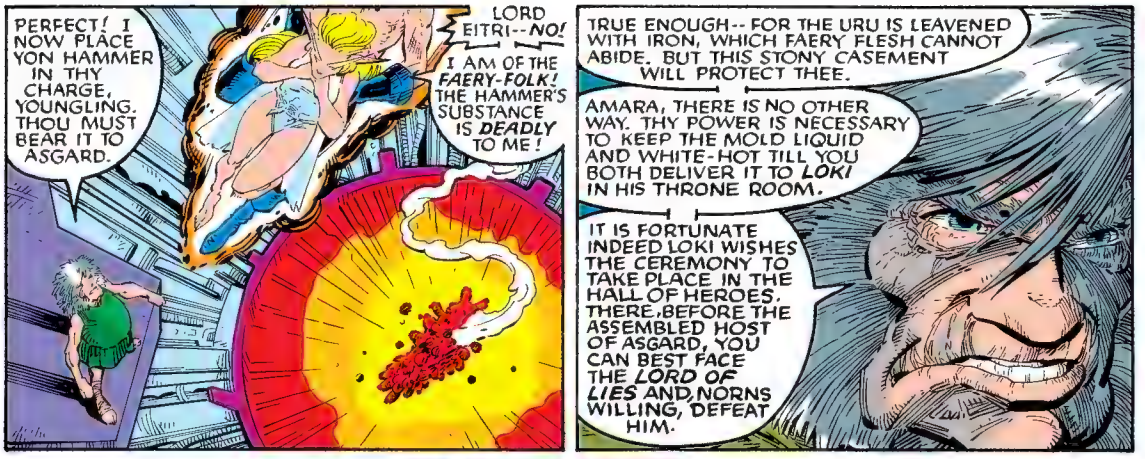
YOU'RE LOOKING PRETTY GLUM, DOUG.
JUST WONDERING WHAT I'M DOING HERE. YOU GUYS ALL HAVE PHYSICAL SKILLS. THE ONLY THING CYPHER CAN DO IS TALK.
SELF WILL PROTECT FRIEND CYPHERDOUG!
GREAT, WARLOCK. I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT BUT I'M A LITTLE OLD TO NEED A BABY-SITTER.

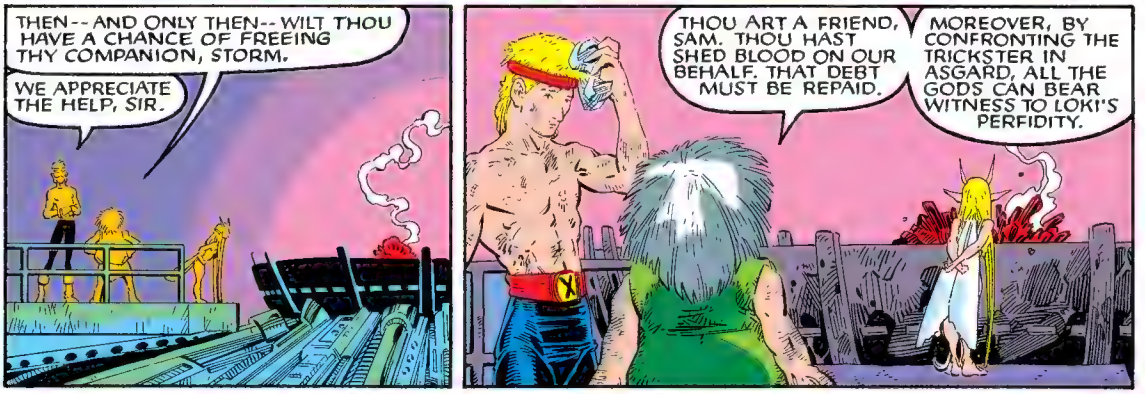
ARE WE NOT A TEAM? ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER??
LIFE'S TOUGH, PALLY. AS A MUTANT, I CAN TELEPORT THROUGH SPACE AND TIME-- TROUBLE IS, I CAN BARELY CONTROL IT. I'M A DEMON SORCERESS, BUT THOSE POWERS ARE VIRTUALLY NONEXISTENT ON EARTH, AND ANYWHERE THEY DO WORK...
...THEIR NATURE TURNS ME TO EVIL.
YET, WITHOUT THAT PART OF MYSELF, I FEEL INCOMPLETE. HOLLOW. LIKE BEING A PAINTER, AND DELIBERATELY MAKING YOURSELF BLIND.

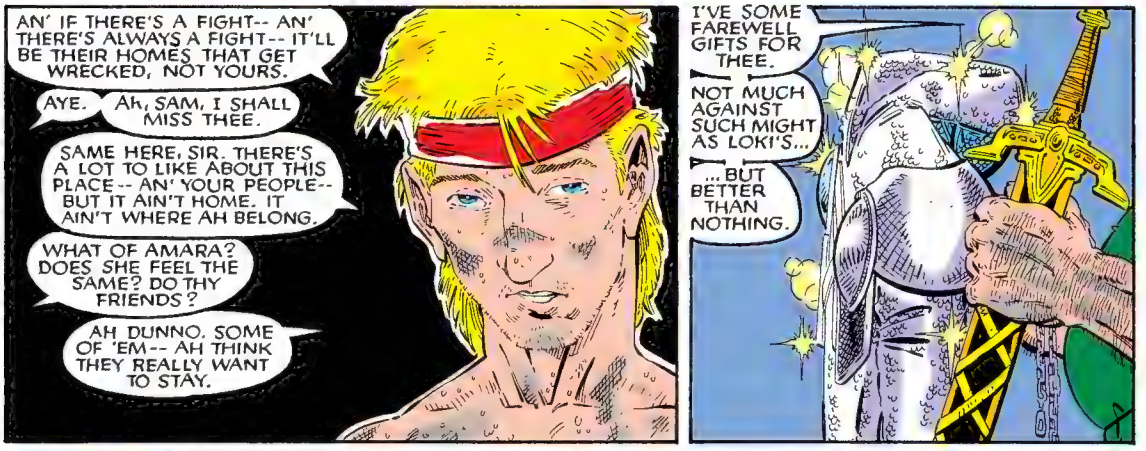

IT'S WHAT I DO BEST-- WHY MUST I DENY IT?! THAT'S NOT FAIR!
SELF IS CONSTANTLY AFRAID ON EARTH-- FOR SELF AND SELF'S FRIENDS-- IS IT TOO MUCH FOR SELF TO ASK FOR A PLACE WHERE SELF WILL BE SAFE?!
I'M A CHEYENNE. MY ANCESTORS WERE LORDS OF THE GREAT PLAINS, THE FINEST WARRIORS ON EARTH! I WANT TO BE WORTHY OF THAT HERITAGE.
I... WANT TO LOVE-- AND BE LOVED.
I WISH TO FLY!
THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?!

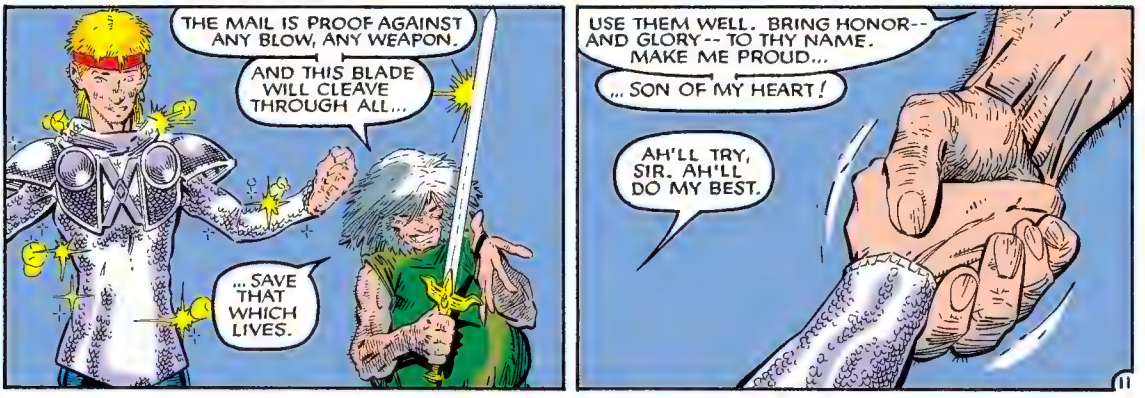

THERE'S A LAND WHERE WE CAN DO ALL OF THAT, WHERE WE CAN AT LAST-- AND FOREVER-- BE HAPPY: THE HOME OF THE GODS...
...ASGARD!
NO!
HOW CAN THIS BE?! WE NEVER SAID SUCH WORDS, THIS MOMENT NEVER HAPPENED!
THAT'S RIGHT, AMARA-- A HUMAN GIRL WOULDN'T KNOW THESE THINGS...
... BUT PART OF A FAERY'S GIFT IS THE ABILITY TO SEE THE SECRETS IN ANOTHER'S HEART. AN' FAIRY IS WHAT YOU'VE BECOME.
NO!
AH'M HERE, AMARA.
CANNONBALL?! SAM?!?
YOU WERE DREAMIN', MAGMA. BUT YOU'RE OKAY NOW, YOU'RE AWAKE...
... BACK TO REALITY.


THE FORGE--
--DEEP WITHIN THE HEART OF NIDAVELLIR, REALM OF THE DWARVES--
THE URU IS NEARLY READY TO BE CAST!
--WHERE THE MASTER SMITH EITRI WORKS HIS WONDERS...
WAIT, YOUNG FRIEND, FOR MY SIGNAL...
I FEEL TORN IN TWO!
THE GREAT FIRES WITHIN EITRI'S FURNACES ARE AS MUCH A PART OF MY NATURE...
...AS THEIR COLD IRON CONSTRUCTION IS ANATHEMA TO IT. I WAS HUMAN, I AM ELF--PART OF TWO WORLDS, YET TRULY BELONGING TO NEITHER!
AND WITH THAT COMMAND, SAM GUTHRIE SOARS ALOFT ON THE ROARING FLAMES OF HIS MUTANT POWER...
...WHILE HIS TEAMMATE, AMARA AQUILLA--WHO WAS ONCE AS MORTAL AS HE--UNLEASHES A LAVA BLAST...
...THAT ENSHROUDS THE MOLTEN FORM BELOW IN A COCOON OF ROCK.
NOW, LAD--BEGIN THE POUR!
UP, CANNONBALL--MAGMA MUST STRIKE BEFORE THE METAL COOLS!

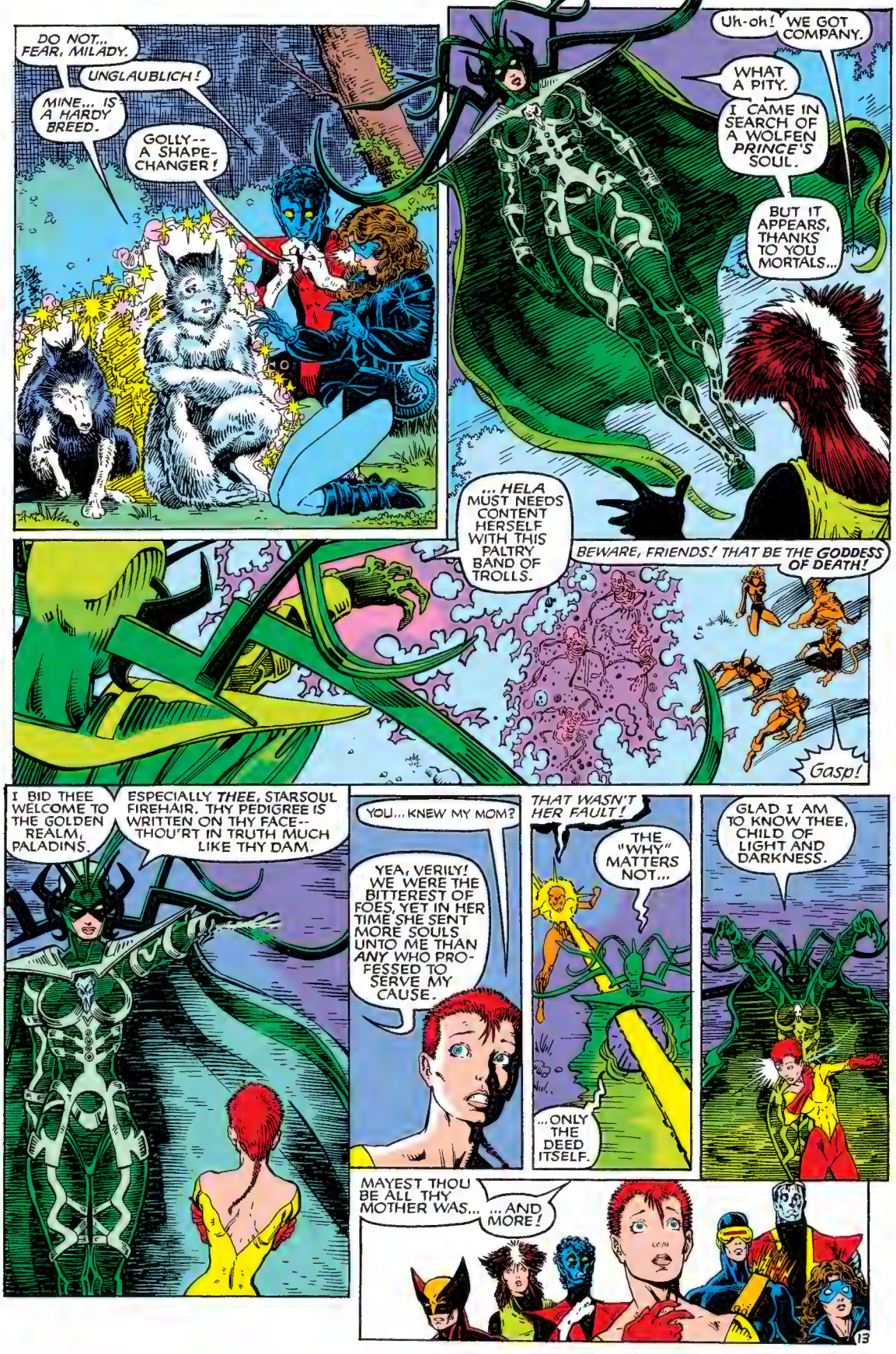

PERFECT! I NOW PLACE YON HAMMER IN THY CHARGE, YOUNGLING. THOU MUST BEAR IT TO ASGARD.
LORD EITRI--NO!
I AM OF THE FAERY-FOLK! THE HAMMER'S SUBSTANCE IS DEADLY TO ME!
TRUE ENOUGH-- FOR THE URU IS LEAVENED WITH IRON, WHICH FAERY FLESH CANNOT ABIDE. BUT THIS STONY CASEMENT WILL PROTECT THEE.
AMARA, THERE IS NO OTHER WAY. THY POWER IS NECESSARY TO KEEP THE MOLD LIQUID AND WHITE-HOT TILL YOU BOTH DELIVER IT TO LOKI IN HIS THRONE ROOM.
IT IS FORTUNATE INDEED LOKI WISHES THE CEREMONY TO TAKE PLACE IN THE HALL OF HEROES, THERE, BEFORE THE ASSEMBLED HOST OF ASGARD, YOU CAN BEST FACE THE LORD OF LIES AND, NORNS WILLING, DEFEAT HIM.

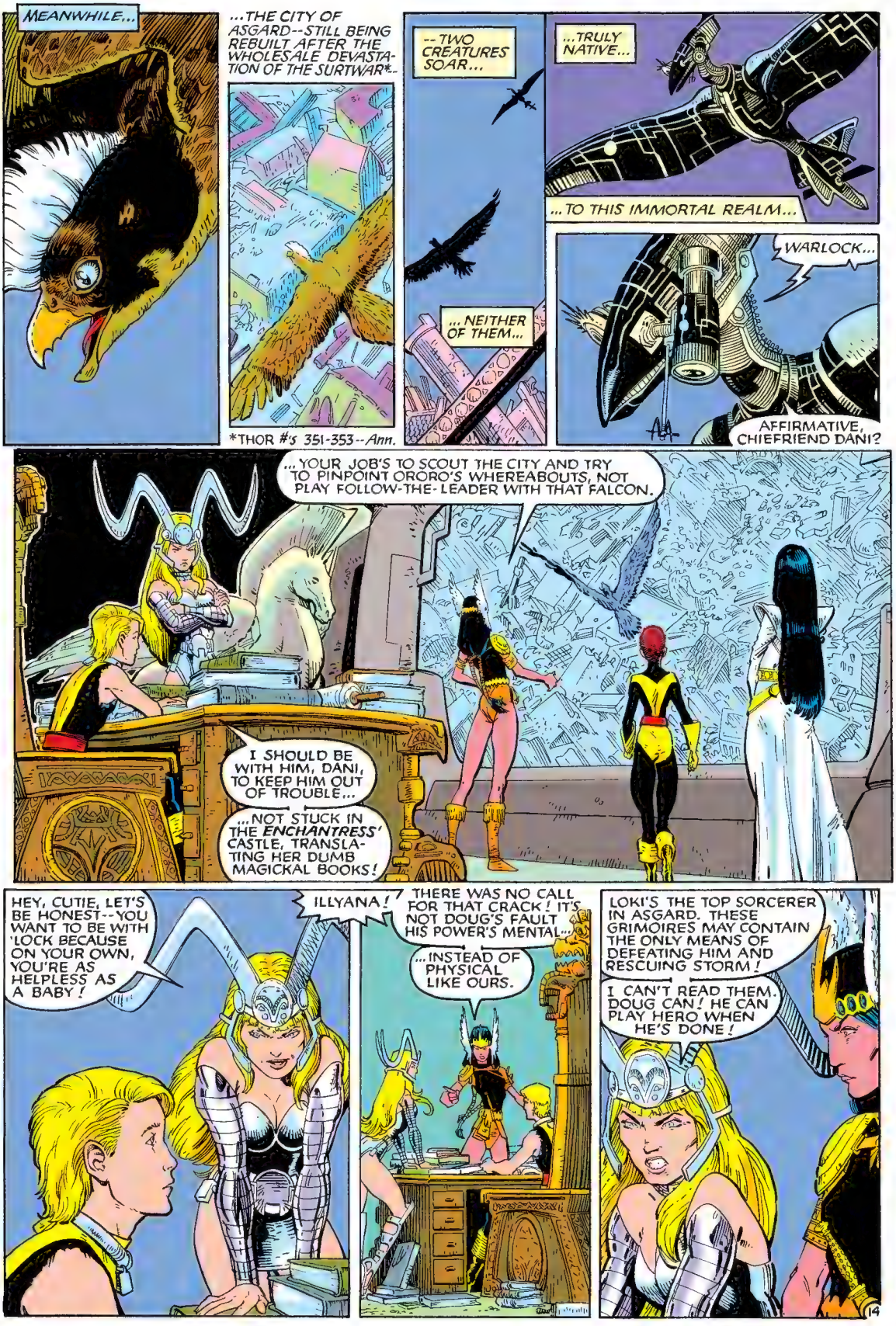

THEN-- AND ONLY THEN-- WILT THOU HAVE A CHANCE OF FREEING THY COMPANION, STORM.
WE APPRECIATE THE HELP, SIR.
THOU ART A FRIEND, SAM. THOU HAST SHED BLOOD ON OUR BEHALF. THAT DEBT MUST BE REPAID.
MOREOVER, BY CONFRONTING THE TRICKSTER IN ASGARD, ALL THE GODS CAN BEAR WITNESS TO LOKI'S PERFIDITY.


AN' IF THERE'S A FIGHT-- AN' THERE'S ALWAYS A FIGHT-- IT'LL BE THEIR HOMES THAT GET WRECKED, NOT YOURS.
AYE.
AH, SAM, I SHALL MISS THEE.
SAME HERE, SIR. THERE'S A LOT TO LIKE ABOUT THIS PLACE-- AN' YOUR PEOPLE-- BUT IT AIN'T HOME. IT AIN'T WHERE AH BELONG.
WHAT OF AMARA? DOES SHE FEEL THE SAME? DO THY FRIENDS?
AH DUNNO. SOME OF 'EM-- AH THINK THEY REALLY WANT TO STAY.
I'VE SOME FAREWELL GIFTS FOR THEE.
NOT MUCH AGAINST SUCH MIGHT AS LOKI'S...
...BUT BETTER THAN NOTHING.

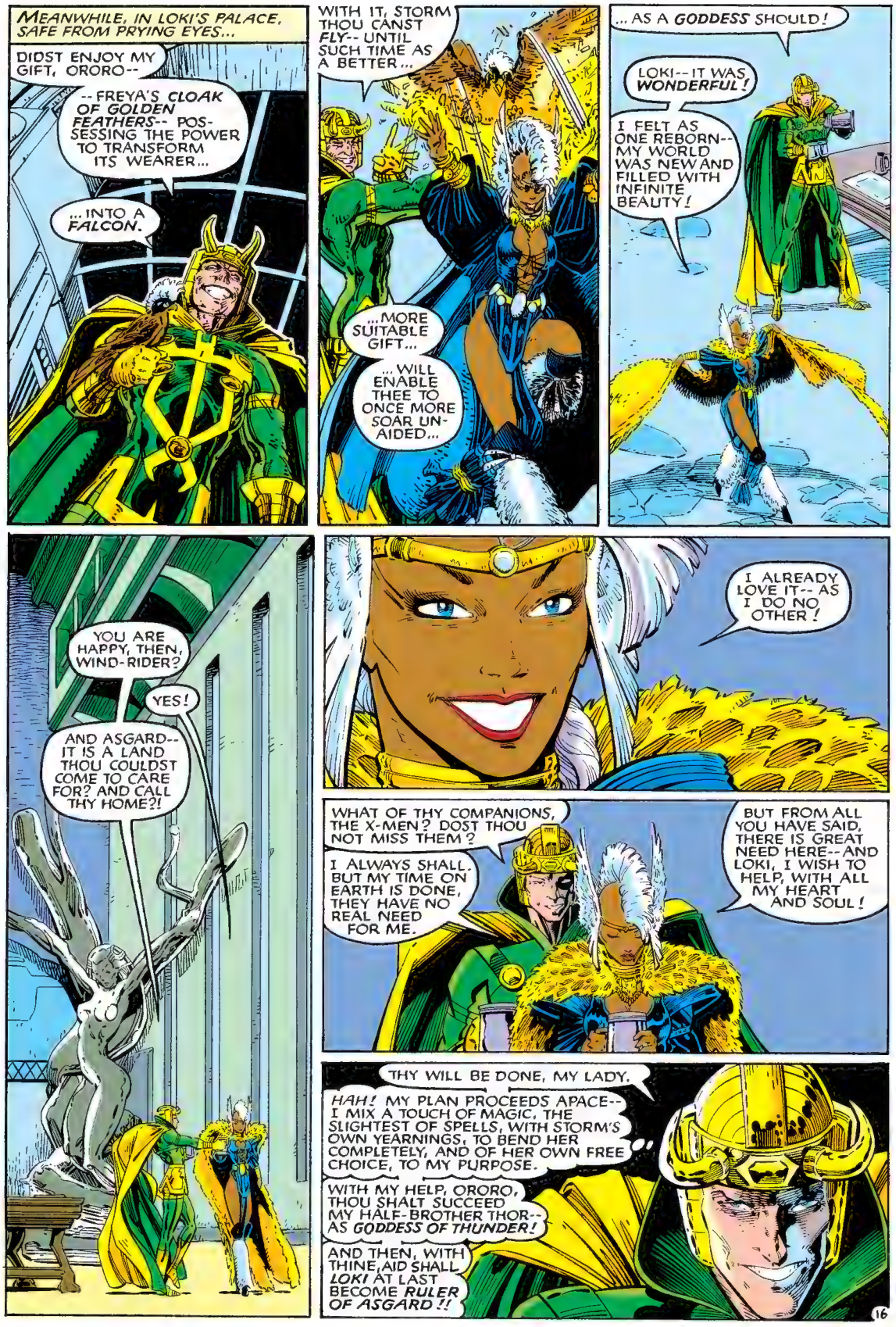

THE MAIL IS PROOF AGAINST ANY BLOW, ANY WEAPON.
AND THIS BLADE WILL CLEAVE THROUGH ALL...
...SAVE THAT WHICH LIVES.
USE THEM WELL. BRING HONOR-- AND GLORY-- TO THY NAME. MAKE ME PROUD...
...SON OF MY HEART!
AH'LL TRY, SIR. AH'LL DO MY BEST.

ELSEWHERE IN THE GOLDEN REALM...
SOME RIDE.
SOME LANDING!
THANK GOODNESS! THE TRANS-ITION WAS SO ROUGH, I WAS AFRAID WE WOULDN'T MAKE IT!
YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE, SUGAR? IF IT'S ASGARD...
...AH AIN'T IMPRESSED.
SCENTS AN' SOUNDS NEARBY, TROOPS--
--HUNTERS... AN' BLOOD!
A WOLF!
IT COULD BE RAHNE!
AIN'T LIKELY, DARLIN'-- THAT'S A BOY.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'M LEAVIN' ANY ANIMAL TO BE BUTCHERED--
--'SPECIALLY BY THE LIKES OF THEM!
WOLVERINE, HOLD OFF-- WE DON'T KNOW-- oh, BLAZES!
BAMF
SNIKT!
SNIKT
AFTER HIM, X-MEN! AND REMEMBER, WE NEED INFORMATION, NOT A BODY COUNT!
WHO ARE THESE CREATURES?!
FROM ALL AH'VE READ, COLOSSUS--
--AH'D SAY THEY'RE TROLLS.
SPOW!
WAK!
RZAM!
POOR THING.
HE'S ALIVE, WOLVIE-- BUT HE'S HURT AWFUL BAD!
ZARK!
12

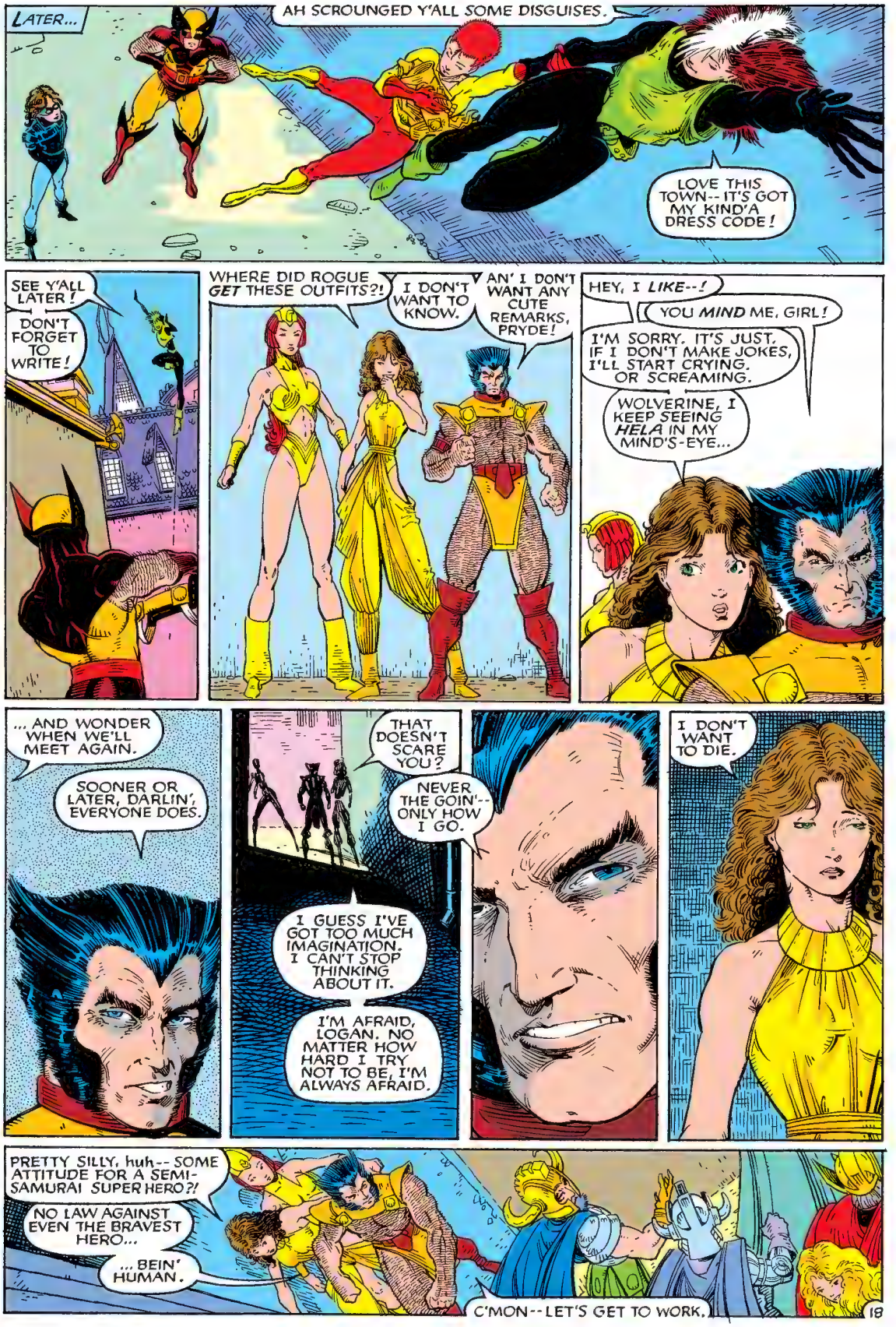

DO NOT... FEAR, MILADY.
UNGLAUBLICH!
MINE... IS A HARDY BREED.
GOLLY-- A SHAPE-CHANGER!
Uh-oh! WE GOT COMPANY.
WHAT A PITY.
I CAME IN SEARCH OF A WOLFEN PRINCE'S SOUL.
BUT IT APPEARS, THANKS TO YOU MORTALS...
...HELA MUST NEEDS CONTENT HERSELF WITH THIS PALTRY BAND OF TROLLS.
BEWARE, FRIENDS! THAT BE THE GODDESS OF DEATH!
Gasp!
I BID THEE WELCOME TO THE GOLDEN REALM, PALADINS.
ESPECIALLY THEE, STARSOUL FIREHAIR. THY PEDIGREE IS WRITTEN ON THY FACE-- THOU'RT IN TRUTH MUCH LIKE THY DAM.
YOU... KNEW MY MOM?
YEA, VERILY! WE WERE THE BITTEREST OF FOES, YET IN HER TIME SHE SENT MORE SOULS UNTO ME THAN ANY WHO PROFESSED TO SERVE MY CAUSE.
THAT WASN'T HER FAULT!
THE "WHY" MATTERS NOT...
...ONLY THE DEED ITSELF.
GLAD I AM TO KNOW THEE, CHILD OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS.
MAYEST THOU BE ALL THY MOTHER WAS...
...AND MORE!


MEANWHILE...
...THE CITY OF ASGARD--STILL BEING REBUILT AFTER THE WHOLESALE DEVASTATION OF THE SURTWAR*--
*THOR #'s 351-353--Ann.
--TWO CREATURES SOAR...
...NEITHER OF THEM...
...TRULY NATIVE...
...TO THIS IMMORTAL REALM...
WARLOCK...
AFFIRMATIVE, CHIEFRIEND DANI?
...YOUR JOB'S TO SCOUT THE CITY AND TRY TO PINPOINT ORORO'S WHEREABOUTS, NOT PLAY FOLLOW-THE-LEADER WITH THAT FALCON.
I SHOULD BE WITH HIM, DANI, TO KEEP HIM OUT OF TROUBLE...
...NOT STUCK IN THE ENCHANTRESS' CASTLE, TRANSLATING HER DUMB MAGICKAL BOOKS!
HEY, CUTIE, LET'S BE HONEST--YOU WANT TO BE WITH 'LOCK BECAUSE ON YOUR OWN, YOU'RE AS HELPLESS AS A BABY!
ILLYANA!
THERE WAS NO CALL FOR THAT CRACK! IT'S NOT DOUG'S FAULT HIS POWER'S MENTAL...
...INSTEAD OF PHYSICAL LIKE OURS.
LOKI'S THE TOP SORCERER IN ASGARD. THESE GRIMOIRES MAY CONTAIN THE ONLY MEANS OF DEFEATING HIM AND RESCUING STORM!
I CAN'T READ THEM. DOUG CAN! HE CAN PLAY HERO WHEN HE'S DONE!

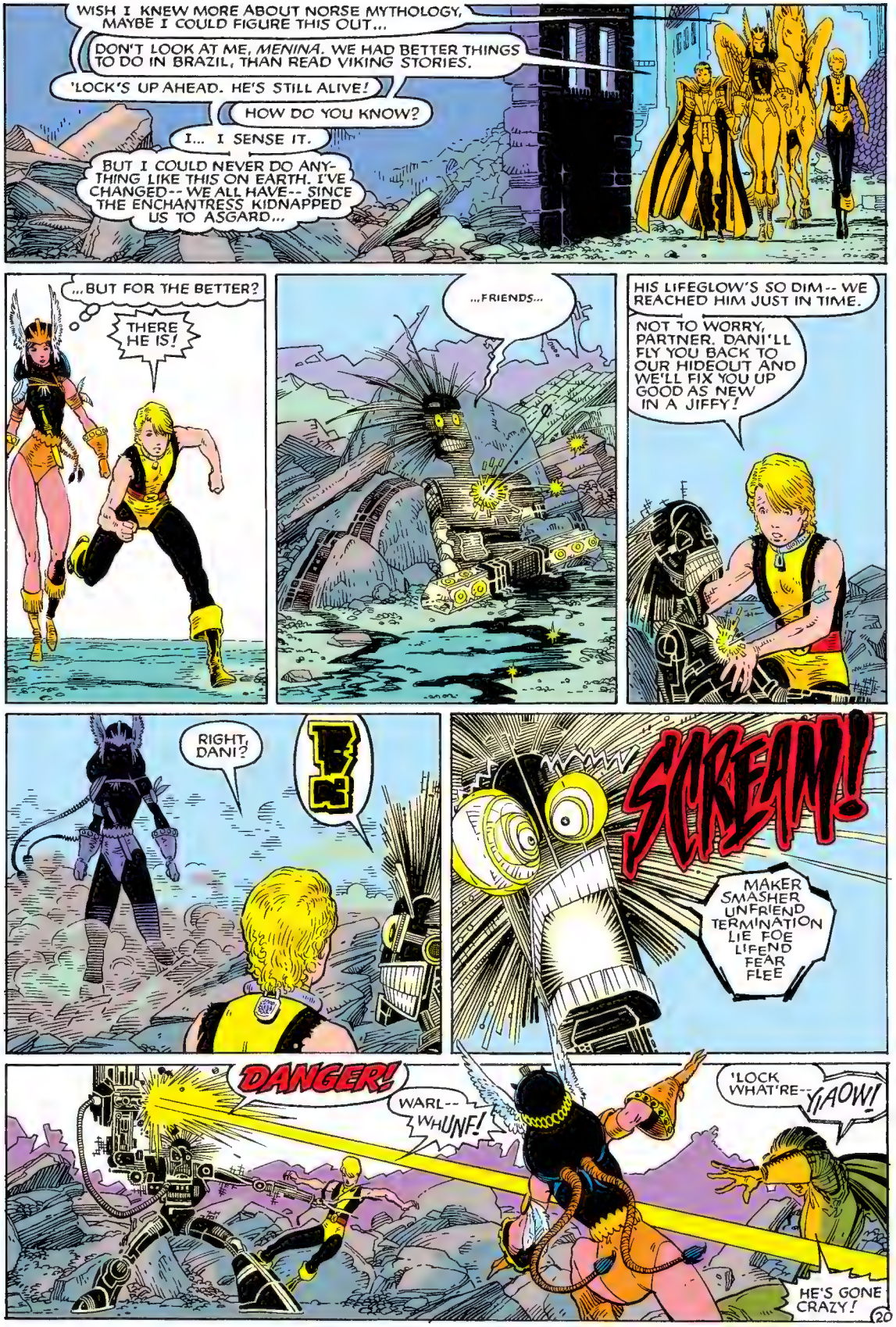
ENJOY THY FLIGHT, MY PRETTY?
AYE, I CAN SEE THOU DIDST.
BUT THOU HAST EVIDENTLY ATTRACTED A COMPANION.
Hmnh-- I THOUGHT I KNEW EVERY BIRD IN ASGARD, BUT I HAVE NE'ER BEHELD ITS LIKE.
ITS PRESENCE NEAR MY PALACE COULD BE COINCIDENCE.
SQUEEEEE
BUT WHY TAKE CHANCES?
WARLOCK--!?!
TRANS-MISSIONS BEEN BROKEN!
HE'S BEEN SHOT!
I'LL GO AFTER HIM ON BRIGHTWIND!
I'M COMING WITH YOU, DANI!
CYPHER, YOU CAN'T--!
TRY AND STOP ME, MAGIK!
I OWE 'LOCK MY LIFE, THAT'S MORE IM-PORTANT THAN ANYTHING!
RAHNE--
--SHIFT TO WOLF-FORM, SO WE CAN USE OUR SPECIAL MIND-LINK TO KEEP IN TOUCH!
DANI...
...TAKE CARE!
IDIOTS! DON'T THEY REALIZE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO MATTERS?!
I'VE WORK TO DO, KARMA. STAY OUT OF MY WAY.
OUI, ILLYANA. AS YOU WISH.
WHIIINNE!
SHE HAS CHANGED, MA PETITE-- YOU SENSE IT, TOO. THE MORE ILLYANA PRACTICES THE ENCHANTRESS' SPELLS, THE MORE LIKE HER SHE BECOMES.
EVEN IF WE COULD RETURN TO EARTH, I AM NO LONGER CERTAIN SHE WISHES TO.
SO FEW OF US WANT TO.

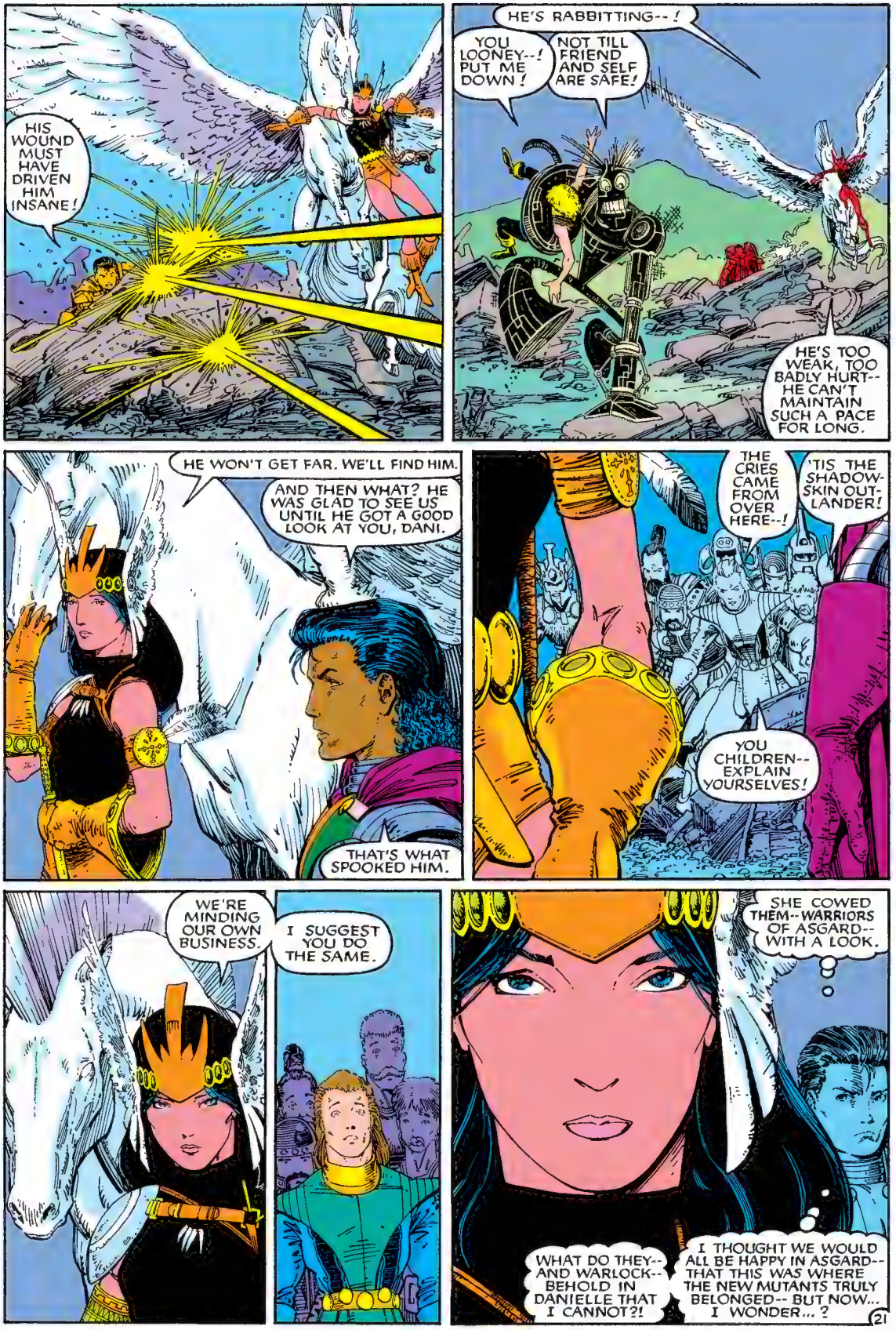

MEANWHILE, IN LOKI'S PALACE, SAFE FROM PRYING EYES...
DIDST ENJOY MY GIFT, ORORO--
--FREYA'S CLOAK OF GOLDEN FEATHERS-- POSSESSING THE POWER TO TRANSFORM ITS WEARER...
...INTO A FALCON.
WITH IT, STORM THOU CANST FLY-- UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A BETTER...
...MORE SUITABLE GIFT...
...WILL ENABLE THEE TO ONCE MORE SOAR UNAIDED...
...AS A GODDESS SHOULD!
LOKI--IT WAS WONDERFUL!
I FELT AS ONE REBORN--MY WORLD WAS NEW AND FILLED WITH INFINITE BEAUTY!
YOU ARE HAPPY, THEN, WIND-RIDER?
YES!
AND ASGARD--IT IS A LAND THOU COULDST COME TO CARE FOR? AND CALL THY HOME?!
I ALREADY LOVE IT--AS I DO NO OTHER!
WHAT OF THY COMPANIONS, THE X-MEN? DOST THOU NOT MISS THEM?
I ALWAYS SHALL. BUT MY TIME ON EARTH IS DONE, THEY HAVE NO REAL NEED FOR ME.
BUT FROM ALL YOU HAVE SAID, THERE IS GREAT NEED HERE--AND LOKI, I WISH TO HELP, WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL!
THY WILL BE DONE, MY LADY.
HAH! MY PLAN PROCEEDS APACE--I MIX A TOUCH OF MAGIC, THE SLIGHTEST OF SPELLS, WITH STORM'S OWN YEARNINGS, TO BEND HER COMPLETELY, AND OF HER OWN FREE CHOICE, TO MY PURPOSE.
WITH MY HELP, ORORO, THOU SHALT SUCCEED MY HALF-BROTHER THOR--AS GODDESS OF THUNDER!
AND THEN, WITH THINE AID SHALL LOKI AT LAST BECOME RULER OF ASGARD!!

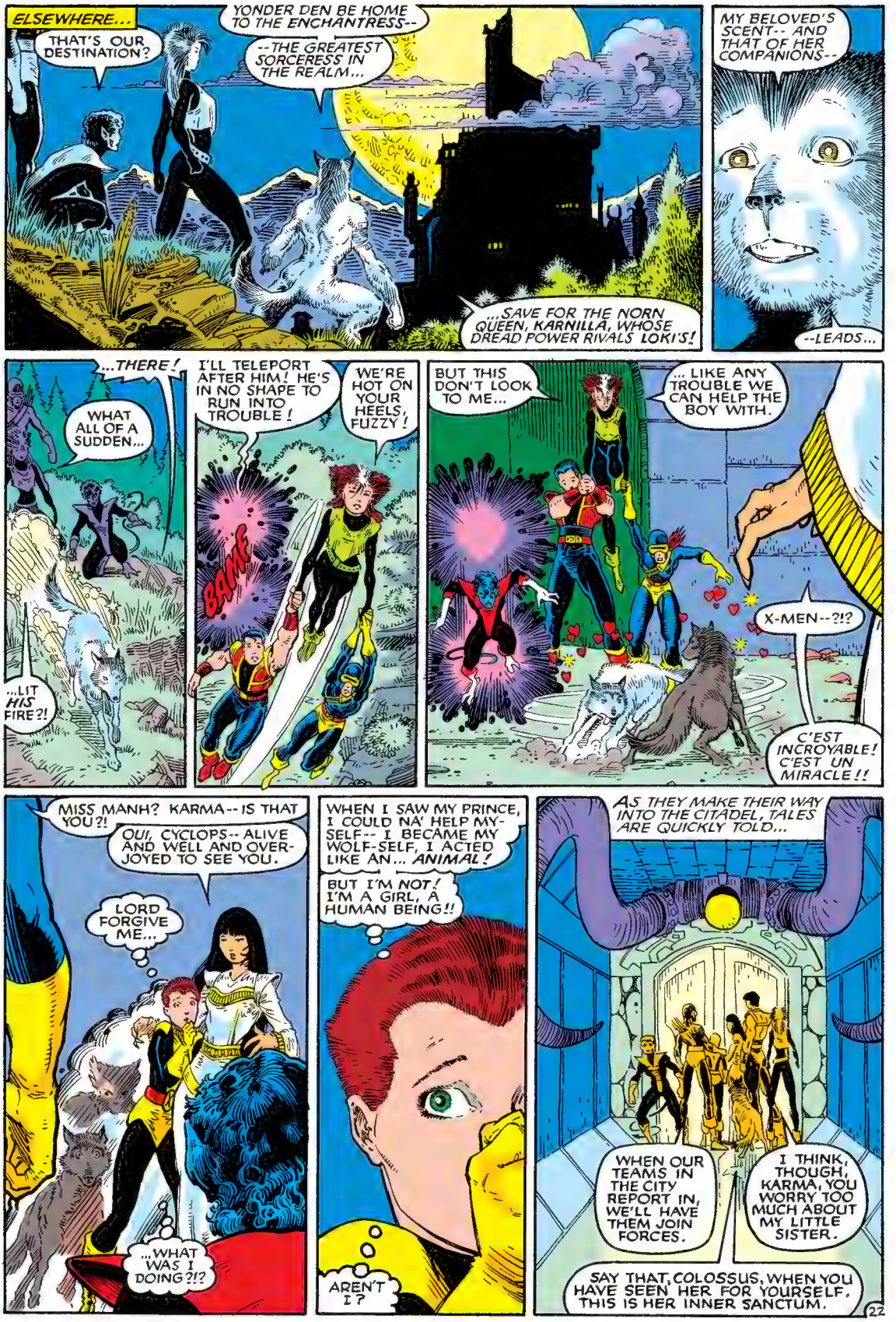
THE FOREST--
--WHEREIN NIGHTCRAWLER TENDS TO THE WOUNDED WOLF-PRINCE AND PHOENIX READS HIS MIND...
HE'S LOST A GREAT DEAL OF BLOOD, CYCLOPS. I'VE DONE THE BEST I CAN. WE CAN ONLY WAIT-- AND PRAY.
ODIN, THE ALL-FATHER, HE SAYS, IS DEAD. THE ORDER OF THE REALM HAS BEEN UPSET.
17
THAT'S WHY TROLLS WERE HUNTING SO FAR FROM HOME, AND HELA WALKS FREE AND UNAFRAID, TO CLAIM WHAT SOULS SHE WILL.
THE PRINCE'S BELOVED WAS STOLEN BY THE ENCHANTRESS' NIGHT-GAUNTS, HER DEMON RIDERS.
HE'S BEEN FOLLOWING THEIR TRAIL.
HER IMAGE IS VERY STRONG IN HIS THOUGHTS.
≥Gasp?!?≤
THAT'S RAHNE!?
TALK ABOUT A STAR-CROSSED ROMANCE.
AT LEAST, THIS CONFIRMS KITTY'S DREAM. WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.
I DON'T LIKE DOING IT, BUT I CAN'T SEE ANY ALTERNATIVE-- WE HAVE TO SPLIT UP. HALF THE TEAM STAYS WITH THE WOLF-PRINCE TILL HE'S FIT TO TRAVEL...
...WHILE WOLVERINE, SHADOWCAT, AND, er, PHOENIX RECONNOITER THE CITY OF ASGARD ITSELF. IF WE CAN CONTACT THOR, I'M CERTAIN HE'LL STAND BY US.
BIG "IF", CYKE.
NO HARM IN TRYING.
WOW.
THE HOME OF THE NORSE GODS!
WOW!
IT'S JUST A CAPER, 'CAT. SAME RISKS, SAME STAKES, AS ALWAYS.
I DUNNO, LOGAN. THE WAY HELA SPOKE TO RAY-- AND RAY HASN'T SMILED ONCE SINCE THEN!
WE DON'T DARE TALK OPENLY TO HER BECAUSE SHE HASN'T TOLD CYCLOPS WHO SHE REALLY IS--WHICH IS SO DUMB AND SO SAD--AND SHE WON'T USE PSI-SPEECH. SHE'S THE LONELIEST PERSON I KNOW...
...AND SHE SEEMS TO WANT IT THAT WAY.
IN THAT, SHE'S SO MUCH LIKE HER DAD. HE HEARD HELA-HE MUST KNOW WHO RAY IS-- BUT HE HASN'T SAID A WORD...
17

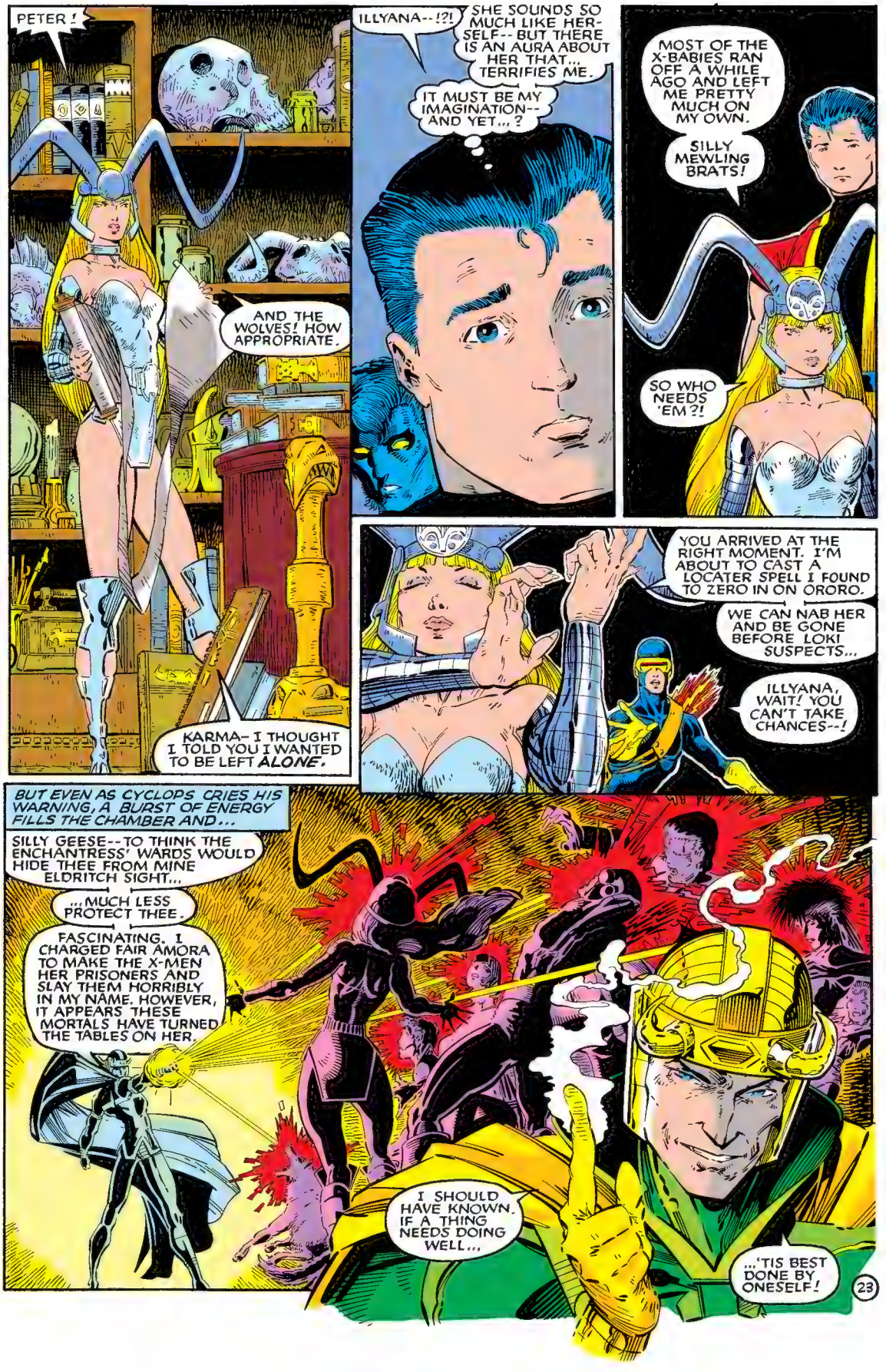

LATER...
AH SCROUNGED Y'ALL SOME DISGUISES.
LOVE THIS TOWN-- IT'S GOT MY KIND'A DRESS CODE!
SEE Y'ALL LATER!
DON'T FORGET TO WRITE!
WHERE DID ROGUE GET THESE OUTFITS?!
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW.
AN' I DON'T WANT ANY CUTE REMARKS, PRYDE!
HEY, I LIKE--!
YOU MIND ME, GIRL!
I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST, IF I DON'T MAKE JOKES, I'LL START CRYING, OR SCREAMING.
WOLVERINE, I KEEP SEEING HELA IN MY MIND'S-EYE...
... AND WONDER WHEN WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
SOONER OR LATER, DARLIN', EVERYONE DOES.
THAT DOESN'T SCARE YOU?
NEVER THE GOIN'-- ONLY HOW I GO.
I GUESS I'VE GOT TOO MUCH IMAGINATION. I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT.
I'M AFRAID, LOGAN. NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY NOT TO BE, I'M ALWAYS AFRAID.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE.
PRETTY SILLY, huh-- SOME ATTITUDE FOR A SEMI-SAMURAI SUPER HERO?!
NO LAW AGAINST EVEN THE BRAVEST HERO...
... BEIN' HUMAN.
C'MON-- LET'S GET TO WORK.

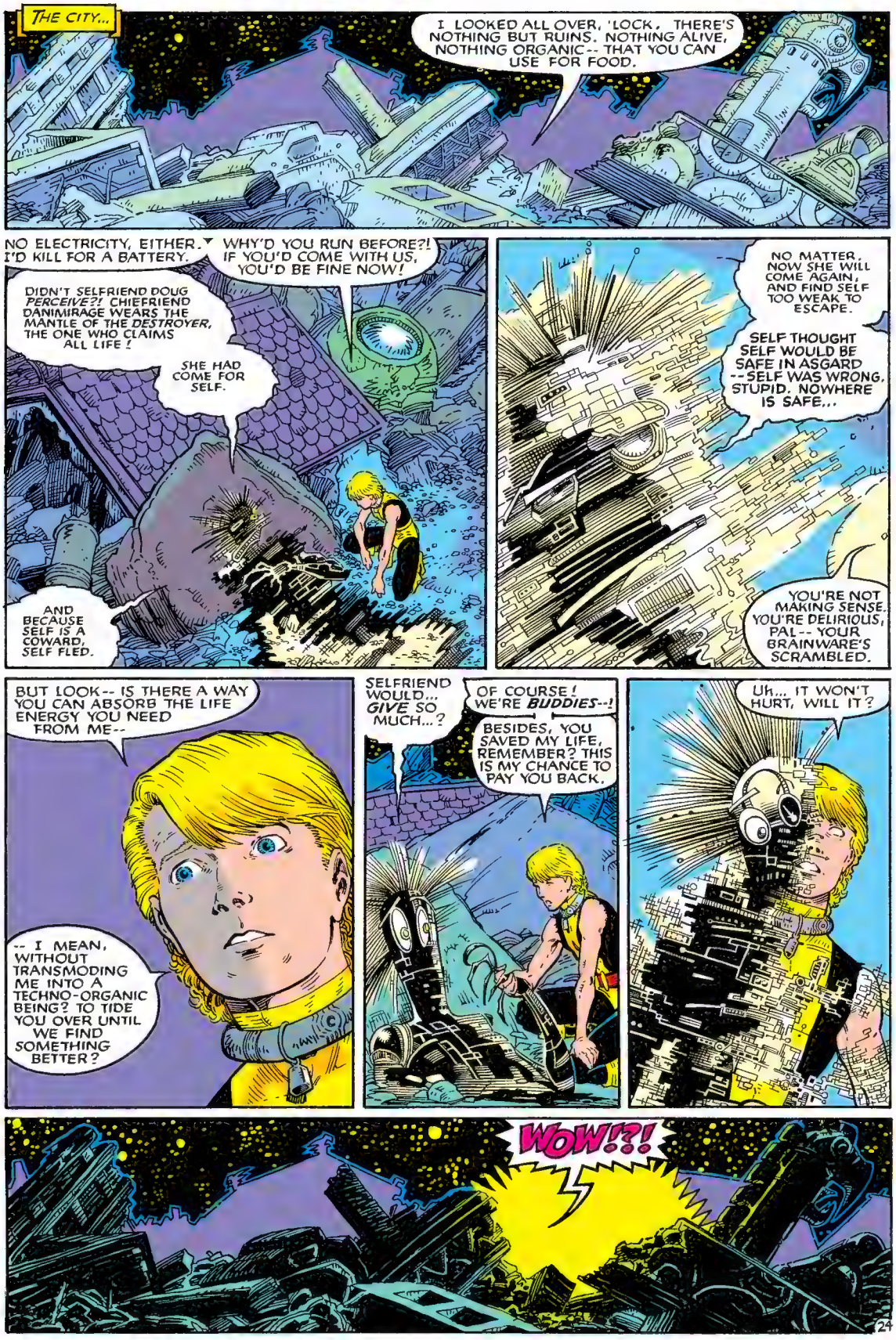
IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY...
TELL ME, SUNSPOT...
...THOU HANDSOMEST OF DEVILS...
...WHICH OF US...
...DOST THOU LOVE BEST?
AND IT BETTER BE ME!
FAIR LADIES, MUST I CHOOSE--?
GASP!
I HATE TO SPOIL A BEAUTIFUL MOMENT...
...BUT I NEED YOU.
Whew!
SAVE US!
PROTECT US!
DON'T LET HER TAKE US!
THEY'RE TERRIFIED--OF DANIELLE?!!
VIGDAL BE MY NAME, LASS-- hic-- WHY WASTE THINE AFFECTIONS ON YON LACKBEARD SHADOWSKIN PIP- hic -SQUEAK?
GIMME A BREAK, WILLYA, PAL?
CAST THY BEAUTEOUS EYE INSTEAD ON A WARRIOR OF STATURE-- ULP!?!
ART THOU MAD, DOLT, TO APPROACH ONE OF THE RIDERS?!
LET HER HAVE THE BOY--
--AND MAYHAP THOU'LT SEE THE MORROW'S SUNRISE!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT ALL ABOUT?!
ARE YOU USING YOUR POWER TO FRIGHTEN EVERYONE, MIRAGE?
I HAVEN'T DONE A THING-- EXCEPT WALK THROUGH THE LOUSY DOOR!
WEIRD. DEFINITELY WEIRD.

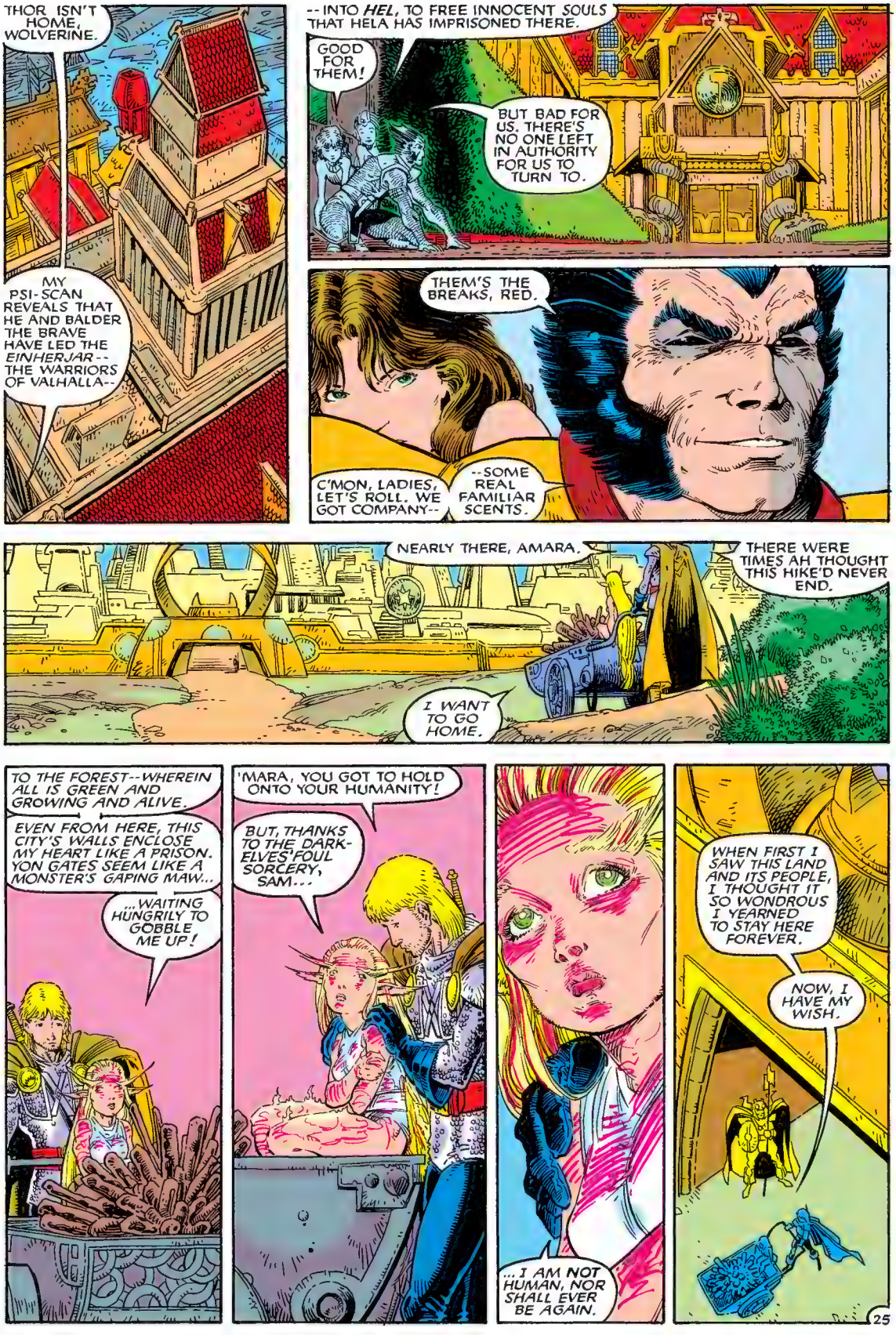

WISH I KNEW MORE ABOUT NORSE MYTHOLOGY, MAYBE I COULD FIGURE THIS OUT...
DON'T LOOK AT ME, *MENINA*. WE HAD BETTER THINGS TO DO IN BRAZIL, THAN READ VIKING STORIES.
'LOCK'S UP AHEAD. HE'S STILL ALIVE!
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I... I SENSE IT.
BUT I COULD NEVER DO ANY-THING LIKE THIS ON EARTH. I'VE CHANGED-- WE ALL HAVE-- SINCE THE ENCHANTRESS KIDNAPPED US TO ASGARD...
...BUT FOR THE BETTER?
THERE HE IS!
...FRIENDS...
HIS LIFEGLOW'S SO DIM-- WE REACHED HIM JUST IN TIME.
NOT TO WORRY, PARTNER. DANI'LL FLY YOU BACK TO OUR HIDEOUT AND WE'LL FIX YOU UP GOOD AS NEW IN A JIFFY!
RIGHT, DANI?
SCREAM!
MAKER SMASHER UNFRIEND TERMINATION LIE FOE LIFEND FEAR FLEE
DANGER!
WARL--
WHUNF!
'LOCK WHAT'RE--
YIAOW!
HE'S GONE CRAZY!

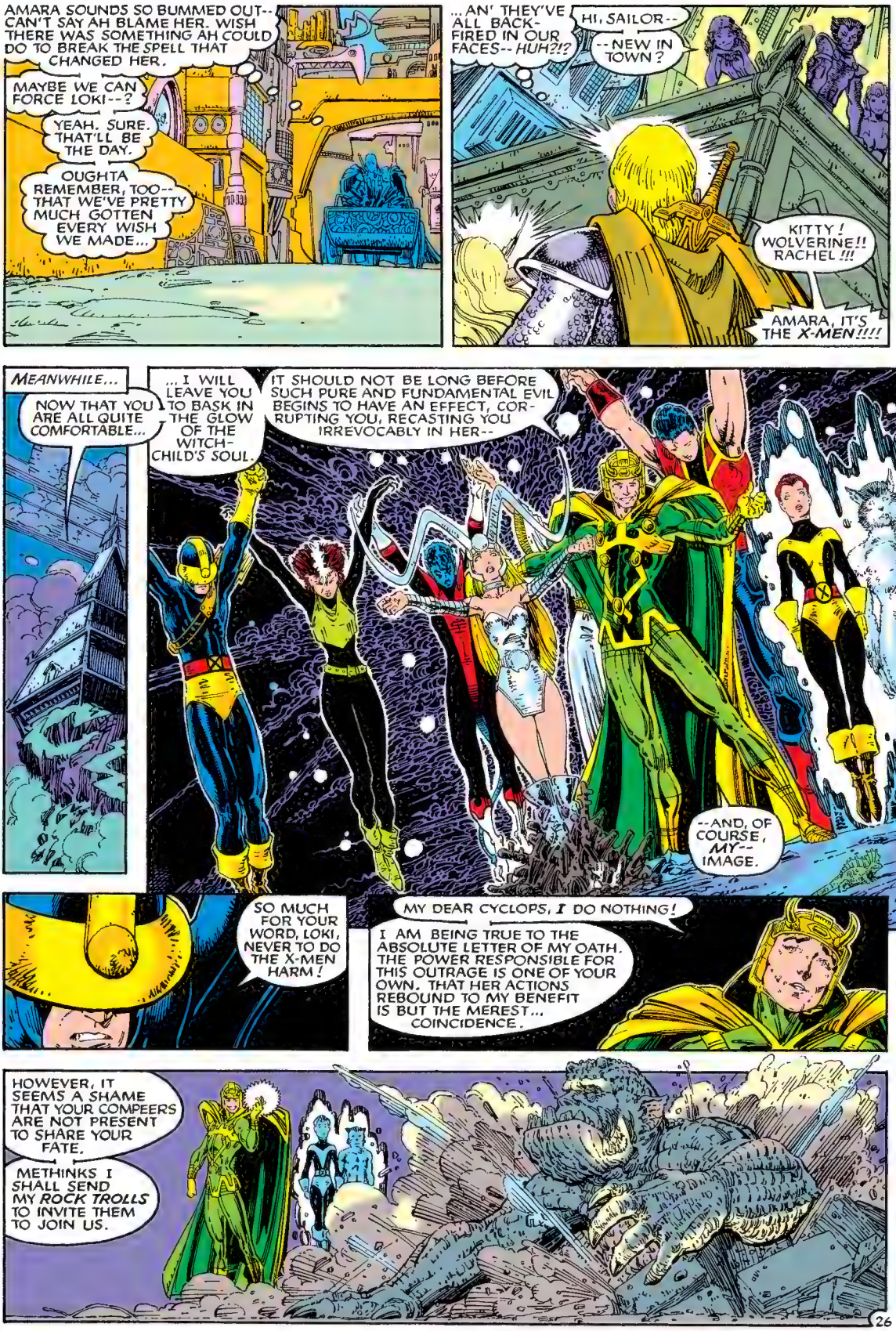

HIS WOUND MUST HAVE DRIVEN HIM INSANE!
HE'S RABBITTING--!
YOU LOONEY--! PUT ME DOWN!
NOT TILL FRIEND AND SELF ARE SAFE!
HE'S TOO WEAK, TOO BADLY HURT-- HE CAN'T MAINTAIN SUCH A PACE FOR LONG.
HE WON'T GET FAR. WE'LL FIND HIM.
AND THEN WHAT? HE WAS GLAD TO SEE US UNTIL HE GOT A GOOD LOOK AT YOU, DANI.
THAT'S WHAT SPOOKED HIM.
THE CRIES CAME FROM OVER HERE--!
'TIS THE SHADOW-SKIN OUT-LANDER!
YOU CHILDREN-- EXPLAIN YOURSELVES!
WE'RE MINDING OUR OWN BUSINESS.
I SUGGEST YOU DO THE SAME.
SHE COWED THEM--WARRIORS OF ASGARD-- WITH A LOOK.
WHAT DO THEY-- AND WARLOCK-- BEHOLD IN DANIELLE THAT I CANNOT?!
I THOUGHT WE WOULD ALL BE HAPPY IN ASGARD-- THAT THIS WAS WHERE THE NEW MUTANTS TRULY BELONGED-- BUT NOW... I WONDER... ?


ELSEWHERE...
THAT'S OUR DESTINATION?
YONDER DEN BE HOME TO THE ENCHANTRESS--
--THE GREATEST SORCERESS IN THE REALM...
...SAVE FOR THE NORN QUEEN, KARNILLA, WHOSE DREAD POWER RIVALS LOKI'S!
MY BELOVED'S SCENT-- AND THAT OF HER COMPANIONS--
--LEADS...
...THERE!
WHAT ALL OF A SUDDEN...
...LIT HIS FIRE?!
I'LL TELEPORT AFTER HIM! HE'S IN NO SHAPE TO RUN INTO TROUBLE!
WE'RE HOT ON YOUR HEELS, FUZZY!
BAM!
BUT THIS DON'T LOOK TO ME...
... LIKE ANY TROUBLE WE CAN HELP THE BOY WITH.
X-MEN--?!?
C'EST INCROYABLE! C'EST UN MIRACLE!!
MISS MANH? KARMA-- IS THAT YOU?!
OUI, CYCLOPS-- ALIVE AND WELL AND OVER-JOYED TO SEE YOU.
LORD FORGIVE ME...
...WHAT WAS I DOING?!?
WHEN I SAW MY PRINCE, I COULD NA' HELP MY-SELF-- I BECAME MY WOLF-SELF, I ACTED LIKE AN... ANIMAL!
BUT I'M NOT! I'M A GIRL, A HUMAN BEING!!
AREN'T I?
AS THEY MAKE THEIR WAY INTO THE CITADEL, TALES ARE QUICKLY TOLD...
WHEN OUR TEAMS IN THE CITY REPORT IN, WE'LL HAVE THEM JOIN FORCES.
I THINK, THOUGH, KARMA, YOU WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT MY LITTLE SISTER.
SAY THAT, COLOSSUS, WHEN YOU HAVE SEEN HER FOR YOURSELF. THIS IS HER INNER SANCTUM.


PETER!
AND THE WOLVES! HOW APPROPRIATE.
KARMA- I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU I WANTED TO BE LEFT ALONE.
ILLYANA--!?!
SHE SOUNDS SO MUCH LIKE HERSELF-- BUT THERE IS AN AURA ABOUT HER THAT... TERRIFIES ME.
IT MUST BE MY IMAGINATION-- AND YET...?
MOST OF THE X-BABIES RAN OFF A WHILE AGO AND LEFT ME PRETTY MUCH ON MY OWN.
SILLY MEWLING BRATS!
SO WHO NEEDS 'EM?!
YOU ARRIVED AT THE RIGHT MOMENT. I'M ABOUT TO CAST A LOCATER SPELL I FOUND TO ZERO IN ON ORORO.
WE CAN NAB HER AND BE GONE BEFORE LOKI SUSPECTS...
ILLYANA, WAIT! YOU CAN'T TAKE CHANCES--!
BUT EVEN AS CYCLOPS CRIES HIS WARNING, A BURST OF ENERGY FILLS THE CHAMBER AND...
SILLY GEESE--TO THINK THE ENCHANTRESS' WARDS WOULD HIDE THEE FROM MINE ELDRITCH SIGHT...
...MUCH LESS PROTECT THEE.
FASCINATING. I CHARGED FAIR AMORA TO MAKE THE X-MEN HER PRISONERS AND SLAY THEM HORRIBLY IN MY NAME. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THESE MORTALS HAVE TURNED THE TABLES ON HER.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. IF A THING NEEDS DOING WELL...
...'TIS BEST DONE BY ONESELF!

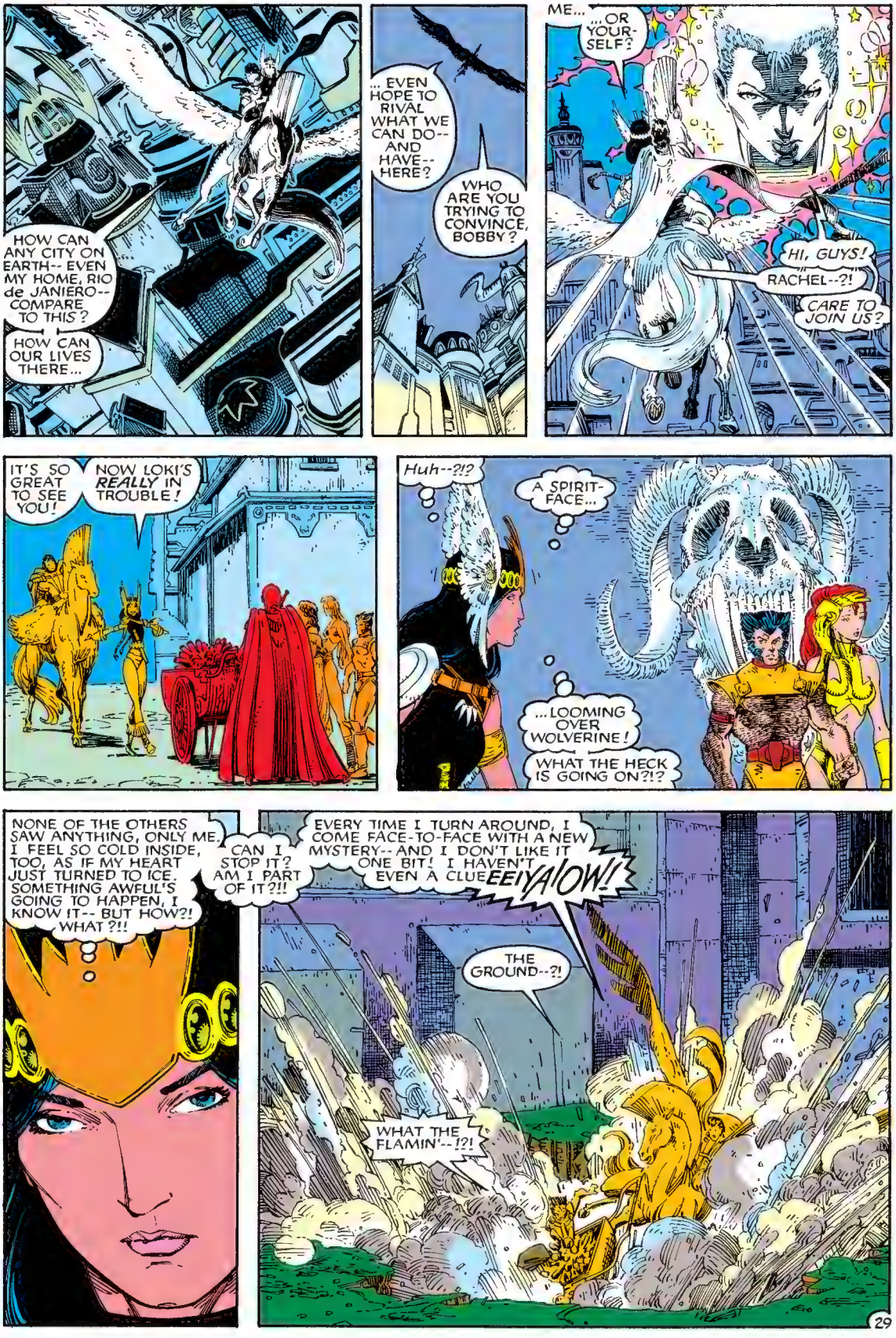

THE CITY...
I LOOKED ALL OVER, 'LOCK. THERE'S NOTHING BUT RUINS. NOTHING ALIVE, NOTHING ORGANIC-- THAT YOU CAN USE FOR FOOD.
NO ELECTRICITY, EITHER. I'D KILL FOR A BATTERY.
WHY'D YOU RUN BEFORE?! IF YOU'D COME WITH US, YOU'D BE FINE NOW!
DIDN'T SELFRIEND DOUG *PERCEIVE?!* CHIEFRIEND DANIMIRAGE WEARS THE MANTLE OF THE *DESTROYER*, THE ONE WHO CLAIMS ALL LIFE!
SHE HAD COME FOR SELF.
AND BECAUSE SELF IS A COWARD, SELF FLED.
NO MATTER. NOW SHE WILL COME AGAIN, AND FIND SELF TOO WEAK TO ESCAPE.
SELF THOUGHT SELF WOULD BE SAFE IN ASGARD --SELF WAS WRONG, STUPID. NOWHERE IS SAFE...
YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE. YOU'RE DELIRIOUS, PAL-- YOUR BRAINWARE'S SCRAMBLED.
BUT LOOK-- IS THERE A WAY YOU CAN ABSORB THE LIFE ENERGY YOU NEED FROM ME--
-- I MEAN, WITHOUT TRANSMODING ME INTO A TECHNO-ORGANIC BEING? TO TIDE YOU OVER UNTIL WE FIND SOMETHING BETTER?
SELFRIEND WOULD... *GIVE* SO MUCH...?
OF COURSE! WE'RE ***BUDDIES***--!
BESIDES, YOU SAVED MY LIFE, REMEMBER? THIS IS MY CHANCE TO PAY YOU BACK.
Uh... IT WON'T HURT, WILL IT?
WOW!?!

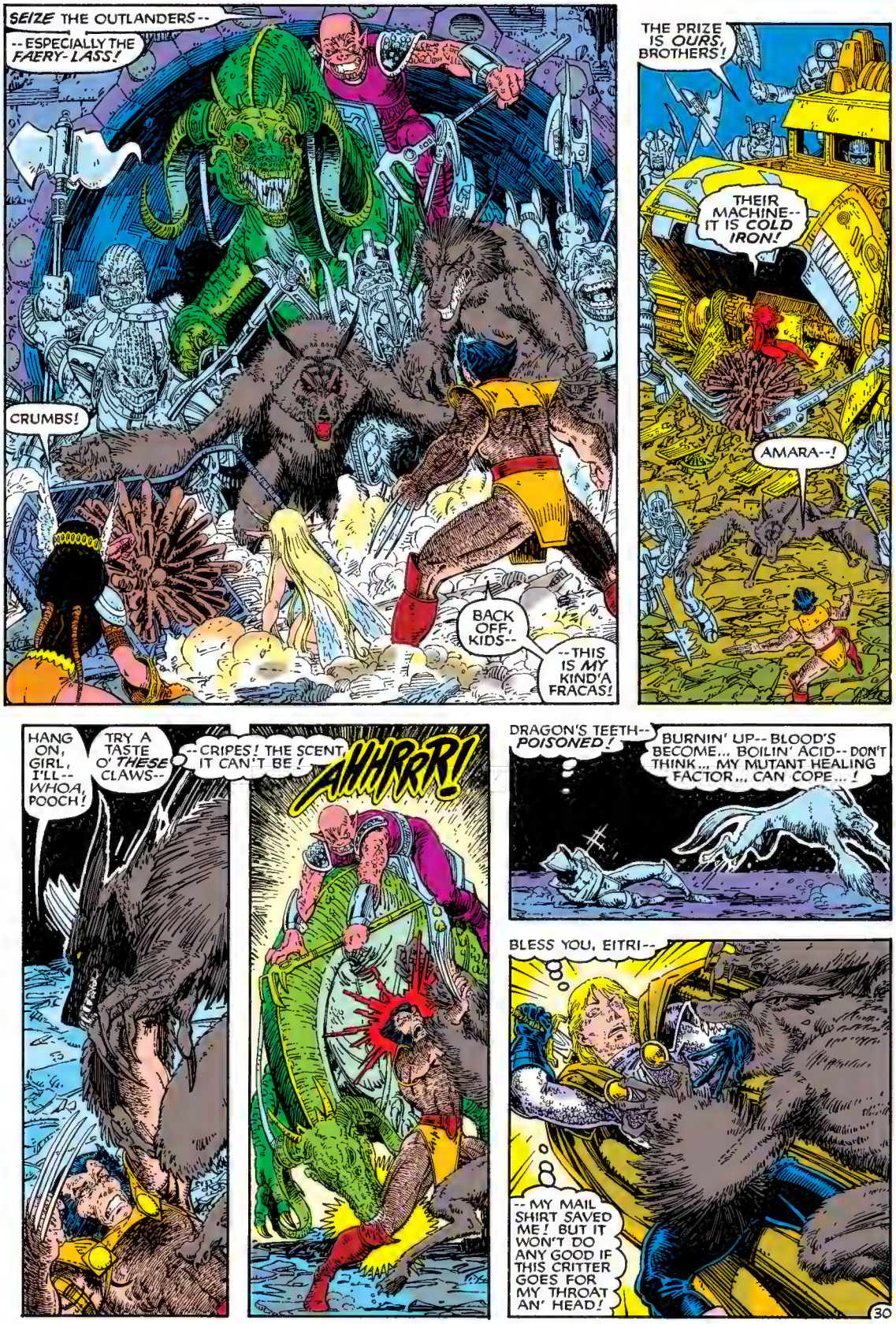

THOR ISN'T HOME, WOLVERINE.
MY PSI-SCAN REVEALS THAT HE AND BALDER THE BRAVE HAVE LED THE EINHERJAR -- THE WARRIORS OF VALHALLA--
--INTO HEL, TO FREE INNOCENT SOULS THAT HELA HAS IMPRISONED THERE.
GOOD FOR THEM!
BUT BAD FOR US. THERE'S NO ONE LEFT IN AUTHORITY FOR US TO TURN TO.
THEM'S THE BREAKS, RED.
C'MON, LADIES, LET'S ROLL. WE GOT COMPANY--
--SOME REAL FAMILIAR SCENTS.
NEARLY THERE, AMARA.
THERE WERE TIMES AH THOUGHT THIS HIKE'D NEVER END.
I WANT TO GO HOME.
TO THE FOREST--WHEREIN ALL IS GREEN AND GROWING AND ALIVE.
EVEN FROM HERE, THIS CITY'S WALLS ENCLOSE MY HEART LIKE A PRISON. YON GATES SEEM LIKE A MONSTER'S GAPING MAW...
...WAITING HUNGRILY TO GOBBLE ME UP!
'MARA, YOU GOT TO HOLD ONTO YOUR HUMANITY!
BUT, THANKS TO THE DARK-ELVES' FOUL SORCERY, SAM...
...I AM NOT HUMAN, NOR SHALL EVER BE AGAIN.
WHEN FIRST I SAW THIS LAND AND ITS PEOPLE, I THOUGHT IT SO WONDROUS I YEARNED TO STAY HERE FOREVER.
NOW, I HAVE MY WISH.

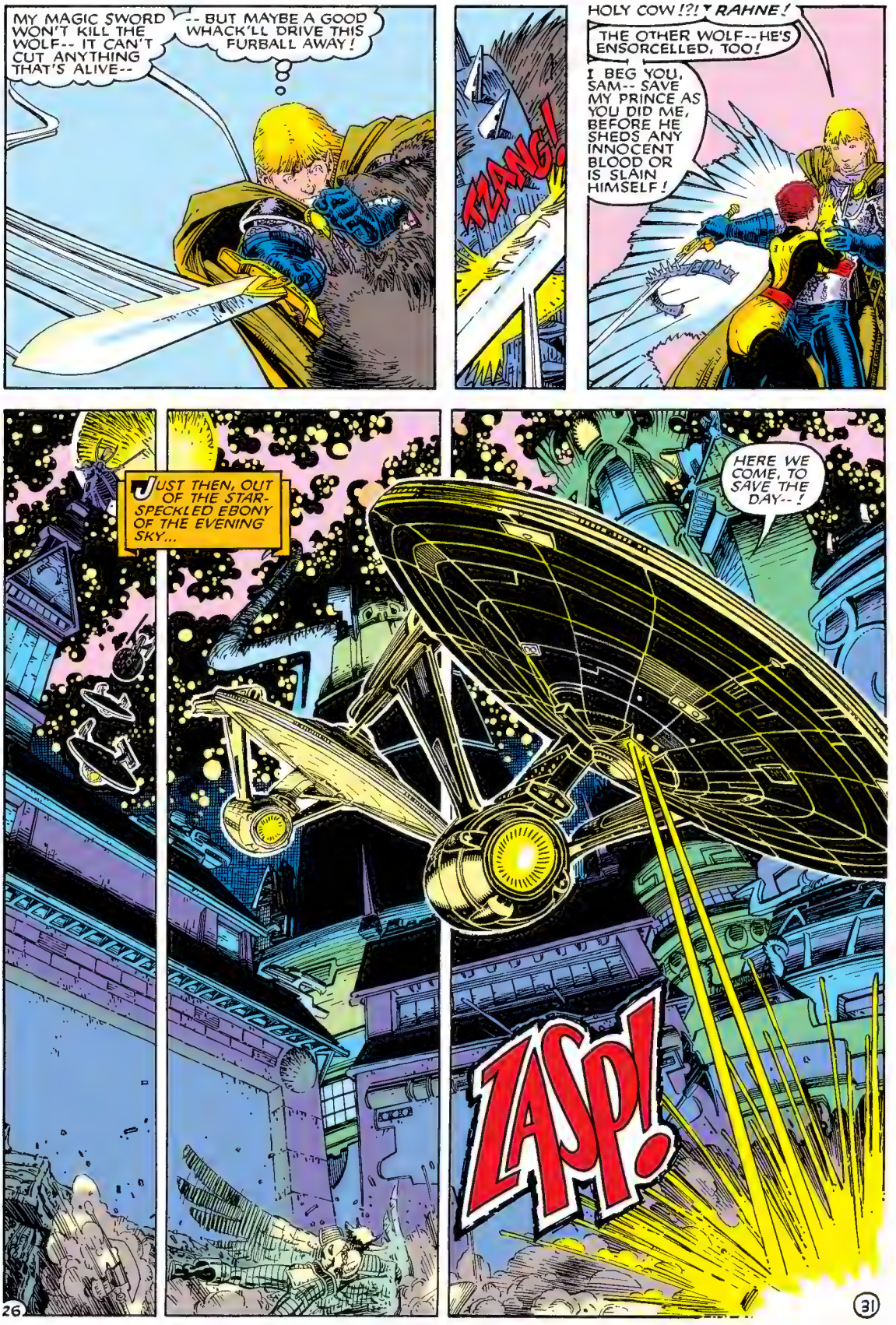

AMARA SOUNDS SO BUMMED OUT-- CAN'T SAY AH BLAME HER. WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING AH COULD DO TO BREAK THE SPELL THAT CHANGED HER.
MAYBE WE CAN FORCE LOKI--?
YEAH. SURE. THAT'LL BE THE DAY.
OUGHTA REMEMBER, TOO-- THAT WE'VE PRETTY MUCH GOTTEN EVERY WISH WE MADE...
...AN' THEY'VE ALL BACK-FIRED IN OUR FACES-- HUH?!?
HI, SAILOR--
--NEW IN TOWN?
KITTY! WOLVERINE!! RACHEL!!!
AMARA, IT'S THE X-MEN!!!!
MEANWHILE...
NOW THAT YOU ARE ALL QUITE COMFORTABLE...
...I WILL LEAVE YOU TO BASK IN THE GLOW OF THE WITCH-CHILD'S SOUL.
IT SHOULD NOT BE LONG BEFORE SUCH PURE AND FUNDAMENTAL EVIL BEGINS TO HAVE AN EFFECT, CORRUPTING YOU, RECASTING YOU IRREVOCABLY IN HER--
--AND, OF COURSE, MY-- IMAGE.
SO MUCH FOR YOUR WORD, LOKI, NEVER TO DO THE X-MEN HARM!
MY DEAR CYCLOPS, I DO NOTHING!
I AM BEING TRUE TO THE ABSOLUTE LETTER OF MY OATH. THE POWER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OUTRAGE IS ONE OF YOUR OWN. THAT HER ACTIONS REBOUND TO MY BENEFIT IS BUT THE MEREST... COINCIDENCE.
HOWEVER, IT SEEMS A SHAME THAT YOUR COMPEERS ARE NOT PRESENT TO SHARE YOUR FATE.
METHINKS I SHALL SEND MY ROCK TROLLS TO INVITE THEM TO JOIN US.

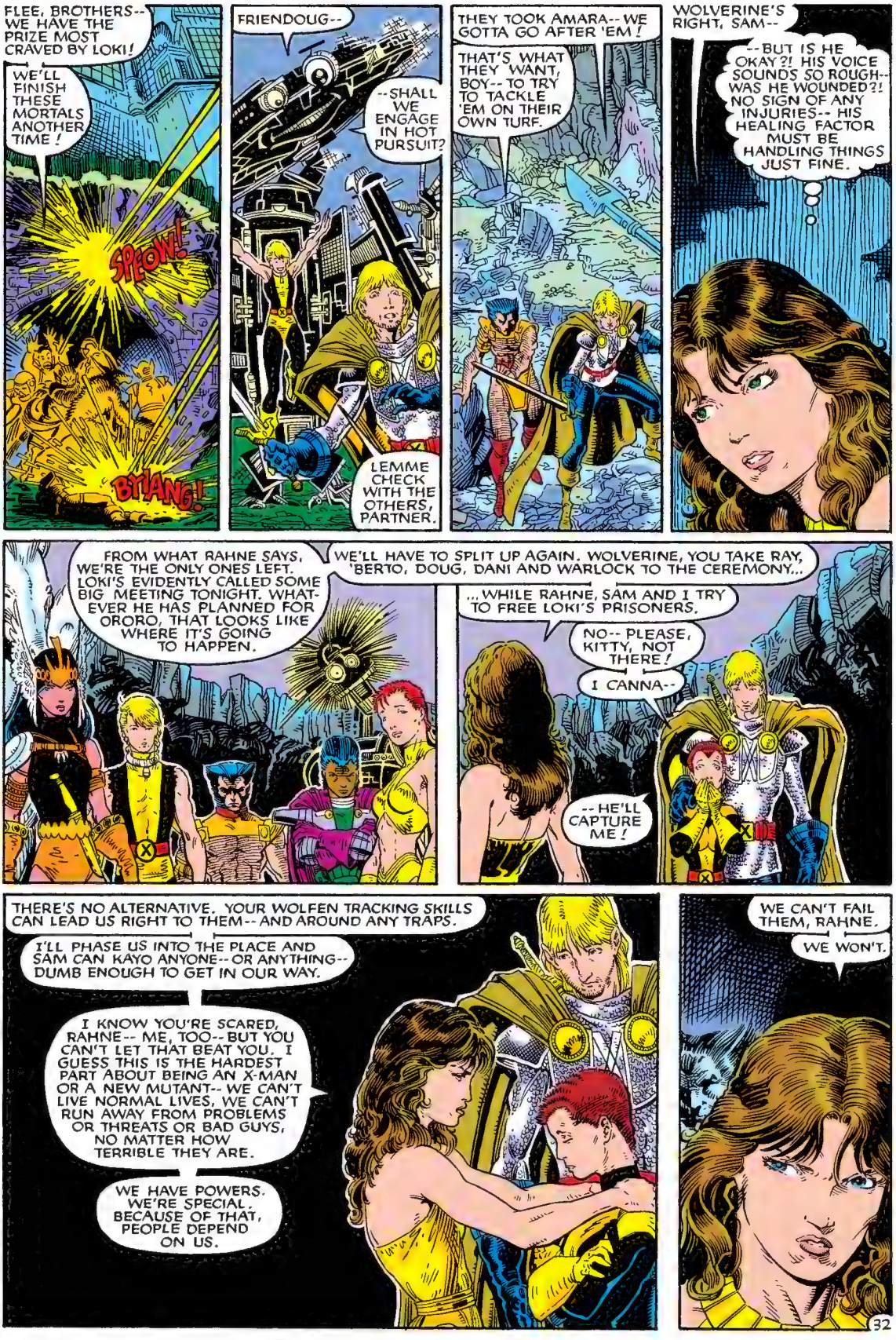
I HAVE WORK FOR THEE AND THINE, RUGRI.
THESE CHANGELINGS SHALL GUIDE THEE TO THY QUARRY...
...BOUND TO MY WILL...
...BY THE COLLARS OF OBEDIENCE. LET THEIR NATURES MATCH THE NAMES I GRANT THEM:
...GRIMFANG AND BLEAKHEART!
THE SLAVER ENCHANTMENT WILL REMAIN IN FORCE SO LONG AS THEY WEAR THOSE COLLARS.
AND NO MORTAL POWER OR AGENCY CAN REMOVE THEM.
GO THOU, RUGRI-- BRING ME THE X-MEN AND NEW MUTANTS STILL FREE.
YOU'VE MADE... A FATAL... MISTAKE... EVIL ONE!
CHAINS--CANNOT BIND--
--A TELEPORTER!
BAMF
NIGHTCRAWLER--
--HE'S ESCAPING!
NOT QUITE!
YOU GAVE ME THIS CHANCE, ELF. AH WON'T FAIL YOU!
BY TOUCHIN' ME WHILE HE TOUCHED CYKE...
...AH ABSORBED BOTH THEIR POWERS!
BAMF
ZRAM!
AIOWUHNF!

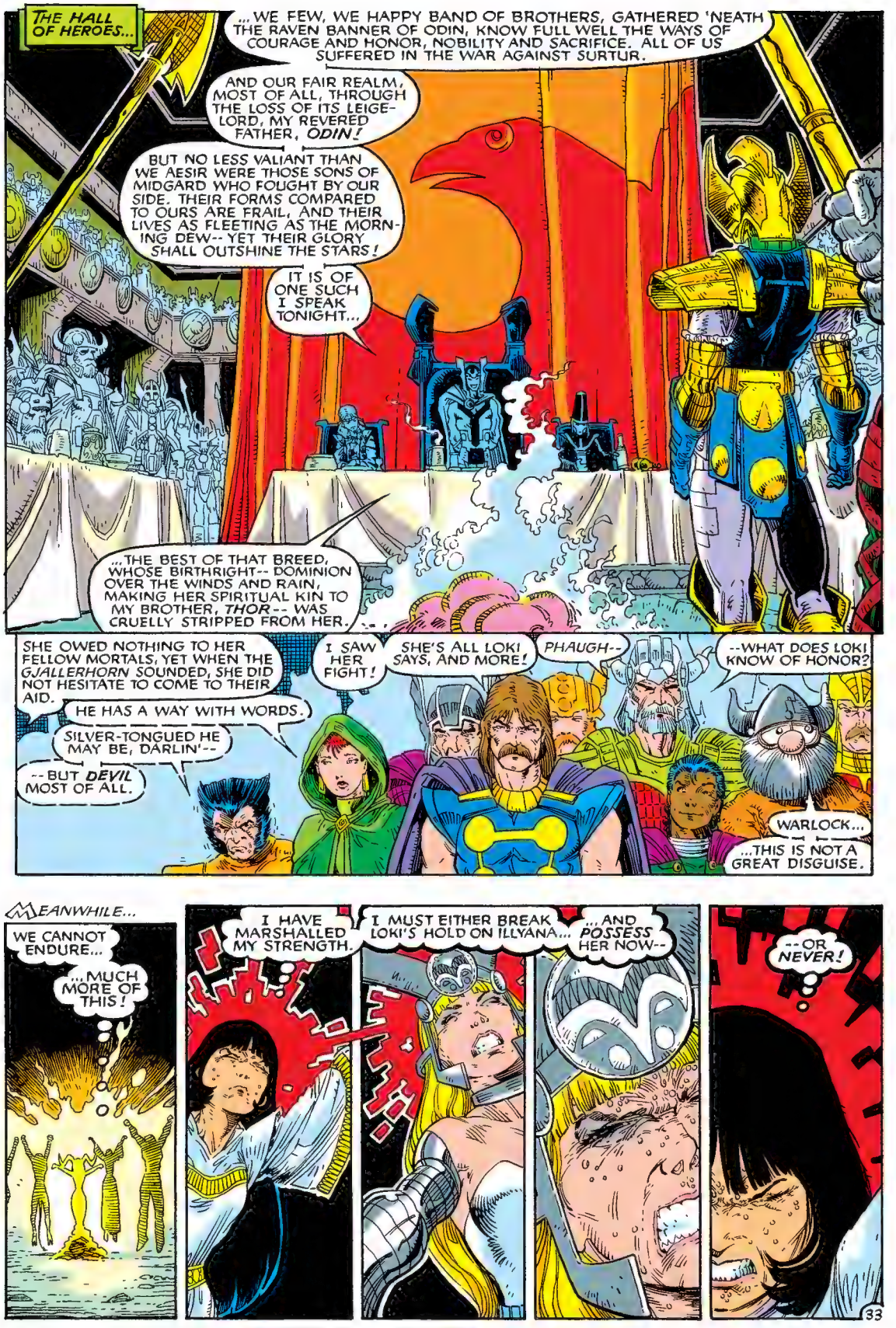
AH WAS ONLY IN CONTACT FOR A SECOND--
--THAT GIVES ME LESS'N A MINUTE TO DO THE JOB!
PLENTY O' TIME!
YOU'RE DONE, BUSTER! BEFORE YOU CAN CAST A SPELL TO STOP ME, AH'LL TWIST YOUR HEAD CLEAN OFF!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, VILLAIN?!
LEAVE HIM BE!
THAT VOICE--?!?
ORORO-- IT'S ME, ROGUE!
NO!
ROGUE IS MY FRIEND.
LOKI IS MY FRIEND.
FRIENDS DO NOT HARM FRIENDS.
DECEIVER--YOU WEAR A FRIEND'S FORM-- BUT, IN TRUTH, YOU ARE A CREATURE OF EVIL!
TOO TRUE, WIND-RIDER!
AND YOUR DISTRACTION HATH GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE SHE CAUSES NO MORE MISCHIEF!
WHO-- WHAT, MILORD--
--WAS THIS FIEND?! WHY DID IT ATTACK YOU?!
REGRETTABLY, THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL DO ANYTHING TO PREVENT THE GRANTING OF MY GIFT TO THEE.
BUT PAY THEM NO MIND.
THEIR BEST EFFORTS SHALL COME TO NAUGHT.

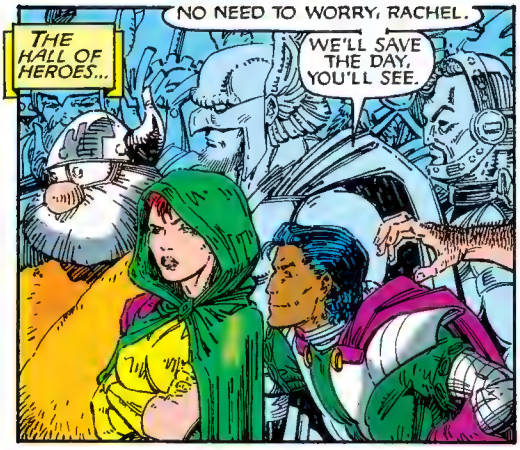

HOW CAN ANY CITY ON EARTH-- EVEN MY HOME, RIO de JANIERO-- COMPARE TO THIS?
HOW CAN OUR LIVES THERE...
...EVEN HOPE TO RIVAL WHAT WE CAN DO-- AND HAVE-- HERE?
WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO CONVINCE, BOBBY?
ME...
...OR YOURSELF?
HI, GUYS!
RACHEL--?!
CARE TO JOIN US?
IT'S SO GREAT TO SEE YOU!
NOW LOKI'S REALLY IN TROUBLE!
Huh--?!?
A SPIRIT-FACE...
...LOOMING OVER WOLVERINE!
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?!?
NONE OF THE OTHERS SAW ANYTHING, ONLY ME. I FEEL SO COLD INSIDE, TOO, AS IF MY HEART JUST TURNED TO ICE. SOMETHING AWFUL'S GOING TO HAPPEN, I KNOW IT-- BUT HOW?! WHAT?!!
CAN I STOP IT? AM I PART OF IT?!!
EVERY TIME I TURN AROUND, I COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH A NEW MYSTERY-- AND I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT! I HAVEN'T EVEN A CLUE
EEIYAIOW!!
THE GROUND--?!
WHAT THE FLAMIN'--!?!


SEIZE THE OUTLANDERS--
--ESPECIALLY THE FAERY-LASS!
CRUMBS!
BACK OFF, KIDS--
--THIS IS MY KIND'A FRACAS!
THE PRIZE IS OURS, BROTHERS!
THEIR MACHINE-- IT IS COLD IRON!
AMARA--!
HANG ON, GIRL, I'LL-- WHOA, POOCH!
TRY A TASTE O' THESE CLAWS--
--CRIPES! THE SCENT, IT CAN'T BE!
AHHRRR!
DRAGON'S TEETH-- POISONED!
BURNIN' UP-- BLOOD'S BECOME... BOILIN' ACID-- DON'T THINK... MY MUTANT HEALING FACTOR... CAN COPE...!
BLESS YOU, EITRI--
-- MY MAIL SHIRT SAVED ME! BUT IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD IF THIS CRITTER GOES FOR MY THROAT AN' HEAD!


MY MAGIC SWORD WON'T KILL THE WOLF-- IT CAN'T CUT ANYTHING THAT'S ALIVE--
-- BUT MAYBE A GOOD WHACK'LL DRIVE THIS FURBALL AWAY!
TZANG!
HOLY COW!?! RAHNE!
THE OTHER WOLF--HE'S ENSORCELLED, TOO!
I BEG YOU, SAM-- SAVE MY PRINCE AS YOU DID ME, BEFORE HE SHEDS ANY INNOCENT BLOOD OR IS SLAIN HIMSELF!
JUST THEN, OUT OF THE STAR-SPECKLED EBONY OF THE EVENING SKY...
HERE WE COME, TO SAVE THE DAY--!
ZASP!


FLEE, BROTHERS-- WE HAVE THE PRIZE MOST CRAVED BY LOKI!
WE'LL FINISH THESE MORTALS ANOTHER TIME!
SPEOW!
BYLANG!
FRIENDOUG--
--SHALL WE ENGAGE IN HOT PURSUIT?
LEMME CHECK WITH THE OTHERS, PARTNER.
THEY TOOK AMARA-- WE GOTTA GO AFTER 'EM!
THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT, BOY-- TO TRY TO TACKLE 'EM ON THEIR OWN TURF.
WOLVERINE'S RIGHT, SAM--
--BUT IS HE OKAY?! HIS VOICE SOUNDS SO ROUGH-- WAS HE WOUNDED?! NO SIGN OF ANY INJURIES-- HIS HEALING FACTOR MUST BE HANDLING THINGS JUST FINE.
FROM WHAT RAHNE SAYS, WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT. LOKI'S EVIDENTLY CALLED SOME BIG MEETING TONIGHT. WHATEVER HE HAS PLANNED FOR ORORO, THAT LOOKS LIKE WHERE IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
WE'LL HAVE TO SPLIT UP AGAIN. WOLVERINE, YOU TAKE RAY, 'BERTO, DOUG, DANI AND WARLOCK TO THE CEREMONY...
...WHILE RAHNE, SAM AND I TRY TO FREE LOKI'S PRISONERS.
NO-- PLEASE, KITTY, NOT THERE!
I CANNA--
--HE'LL CAPTURE ME!
THERE'S NO ALTERNATIVE. YOUR WOLFEN TRACKING SKILLS CAN LEAD US RIGHT TO THEM-- AND AROUND ANY TRAPS.
I'LL PHASE US INTO THE PLACE AND SAM CAN KAYO ANYONE-- OR ANYTHING-- DUMB ENOUGH TO GET IN OUR WAY.
I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED, RAHNE-- ME, TOO-- BUT YOU CAN'T LET THAT BEAT YOU. I GUESS THIS IS THE HARDEST PART ABOUT BEING AN X-MAN OR A NEW MUTANT-- WE CAN'T LIVE NORMAL LIVES, WE CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM PROBLEMS OR THREATS OR BAD GUYS, NO MATTER HOW TERRIBLE THEY ARE.
WE HAVE POWERS. WE'RE SPECIAL. BECAUSE OF THAT, PEOPLE DEPEND ON US.
WE CAN'T FAIL THEM, RAHNE.
WE WON'T.


THE HALL OF HEROES...
...WE FEW, WE HAPPY BAND OF BROTHERS, GATHERED 'NEATH THE RAVEN BANNER OF ODIN, KNOW FULL WELL THE WAYS OF COURAGE AND HONOR, NOBILITY AND SACRIFICE. ALL OF US SUFFERED IN THE WAR AGAINST SURTUR.
AND OUR FAIR REALM, MOST OF ALL, THROUGH THE LOSS OF ITS LEIGE-LORD, MY REVERED FATHER, ODIN!
BUT NO LESS VALIANT THAN WE AESIR WERE THOSE SONS OF MIDGARD WHO FOUGHT BY OUR SIDE. THEIR FORMS COMPARED TO OURS ARE FRAIL, AND THEIR LIVES AS FLEETING AS THE MORNING DEW-- YET THEIR GLORY SHALL OUTSHINE THE STARS!
IT IS OF ONE SUCH I SPEAK TONIGHT...
...THE BEST OF THAT BREED, WHOSE BIRTHRIGHT-- DOMINION OVER THE WINDS AND RAIN, MAKING HER SPIRITUAL KIN TO MY BROTHER, THOR-- WAS CRUELLY STRIPPED FROM HER.
SHE OWED NOTHING TO HER FELLOW MORTALS, YET WHEN THE GJALLERHORN SOUNDED, SHE DID NOT HESITATE TO COME TO THEIR AID.
HE HAS A WAY WITH WORDS.
SILVER-TONGUED HE MAY BE, DARLIN'--
--BUT DEVIL MOST OF ALL.
I SAW HER FIGHT!
SHE'S ALL LOKI SAYS, AND MORE!
PHAUGH--
--WHAT DOES LOKI KNOW OF HONOR?
WARLOCK...
...THIS IS NOT A GREAT DISGUISE.
MEANWHILE...
WE CANNOT ENDURE...
...MUCH MORE OF THIS!
I HAVE MARSHALLED MY STRENGTH.
I MUST EITHER BREAK LOKI'S HOLD ON ILLYANA...
...AND POSSESS HER NOW--
--OR NEVER!

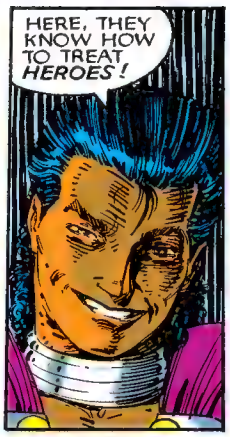

THE HALL OF HEROES...
NO NEED TO WORRY, RACHEL.
WE'LL SAVE THE DAY, YOU'LL SEE.

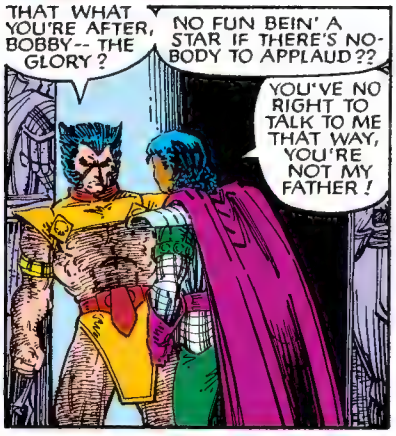
YOU THINK THIS IS A GAME, BOY?!

I KNOW THE RISKS! I LAUGH AT THE DANGER!
DO TELL.

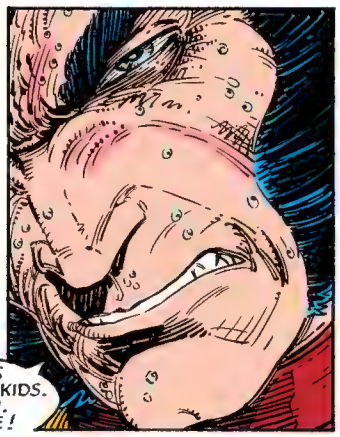
AT LEAST HERE, IF I GIVE MY LIFE, IT'S FOR A PURPOSE-- IT'LL HAVE MEANING!
AN' IT WON'T BACK HOME?
WE'RE HATED THERE, WOLVERINE-- OR HADN'T YOU NOTICED!

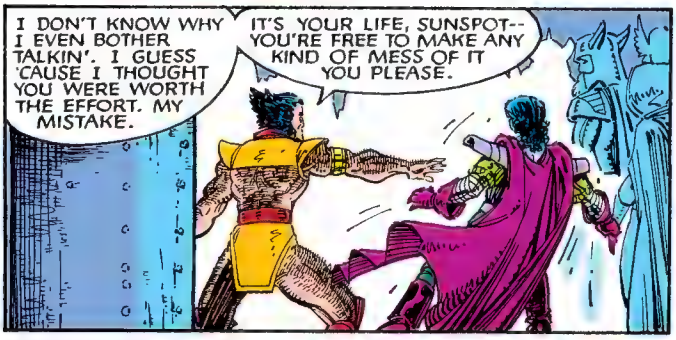
Oh, I SEE-- EARTH ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU. POOR LITTLE MUTIE FELLA DON'T GET NO RESPECT.
AN' ASGARD'S DIFFERENT?

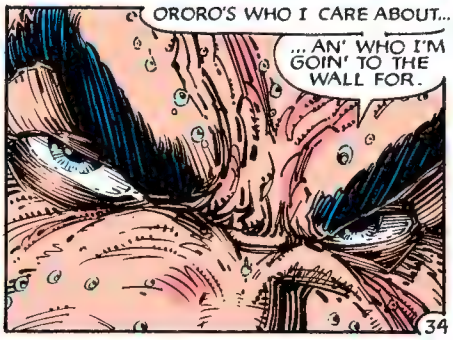

HERE, THEY KNOW HOW TO TREAT HEROES!

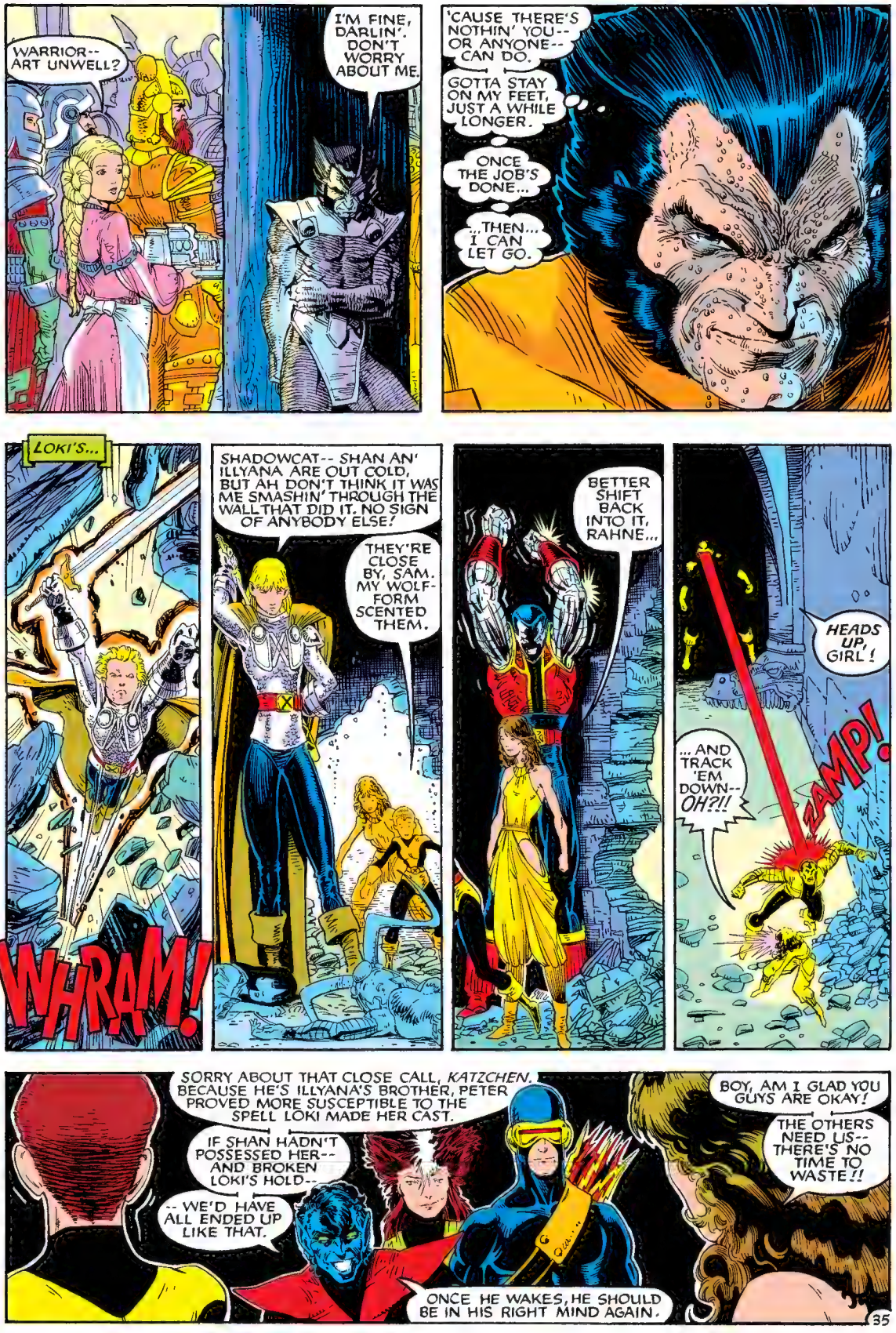

THAT WHAT YOU'RE AFTER, BOBBY-- THE GLORY?
NO FUN BEIN' A STAR IF THERE'S NOBODY TO APPLAUD??
YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO TALK TO ME THAT WAY, YOU'RE NOT MY FATHER!

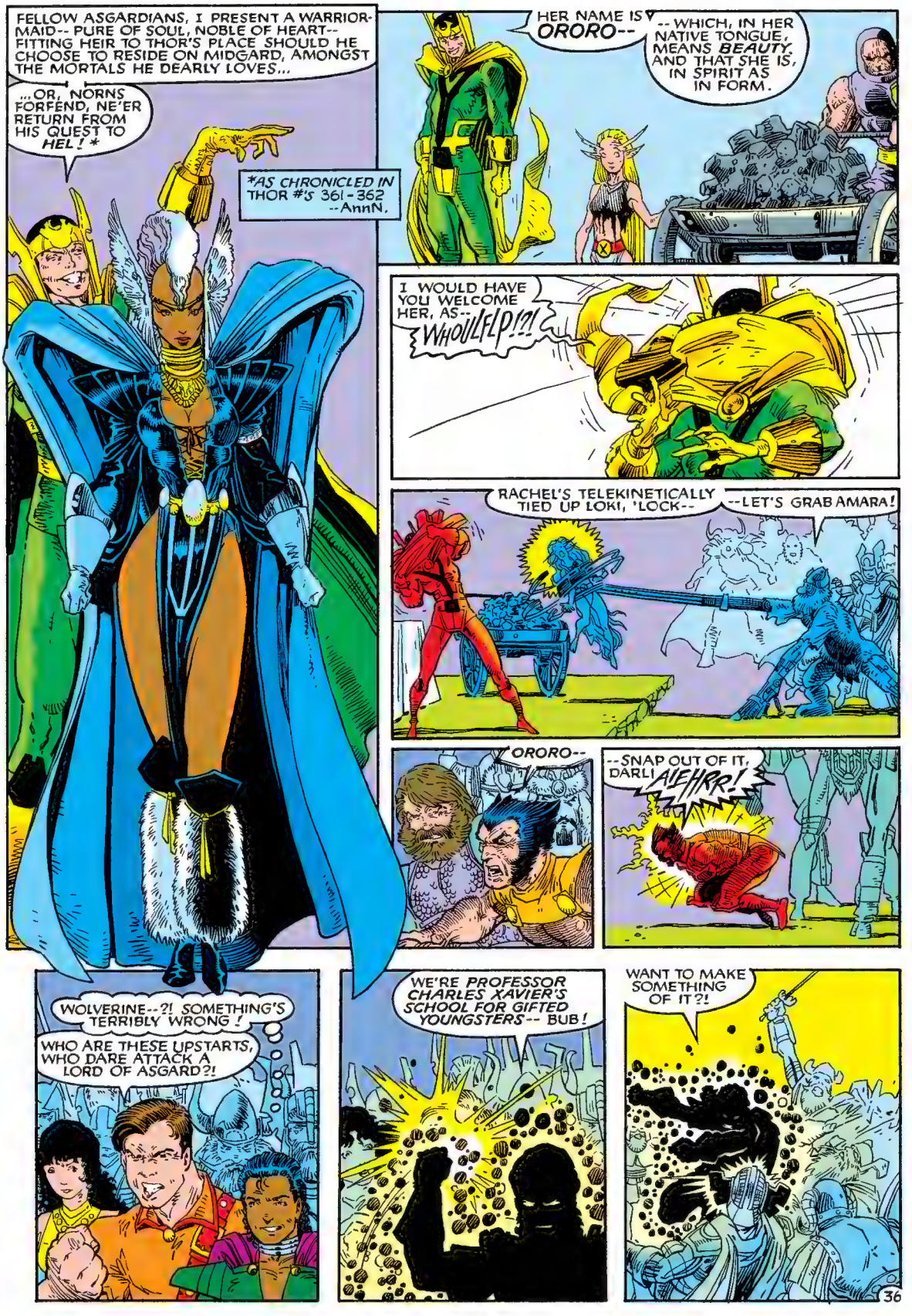
TRUE. I'M A MAN, DOIN' MY JOB!
AN YOU'RE A BOY, CHASIN' A FOOL'S DREAM!


ORORO ISN'T HERE BECAUSE SHE WANTS IT. SHE WAS KIDNAPPED--SAME AS YOU KIDS. AN' SHE NO MORE BELONGS THAN YOU. THE DIFFERENCE IS, YOU GOT A CHOICE!


I DON'T KNOW WHY I EVEN BOTHER TALKIN'. I GUESS 'CAUSE I THOUGHT YOU WERE WORTH THE EFFORT. MY MISTAKE.
IT'S YOUR LIFE, SUNSPOT-- YOU'RE FREE TO MAKE ANY KIND OF MESS OF IT YOU PLEASE.

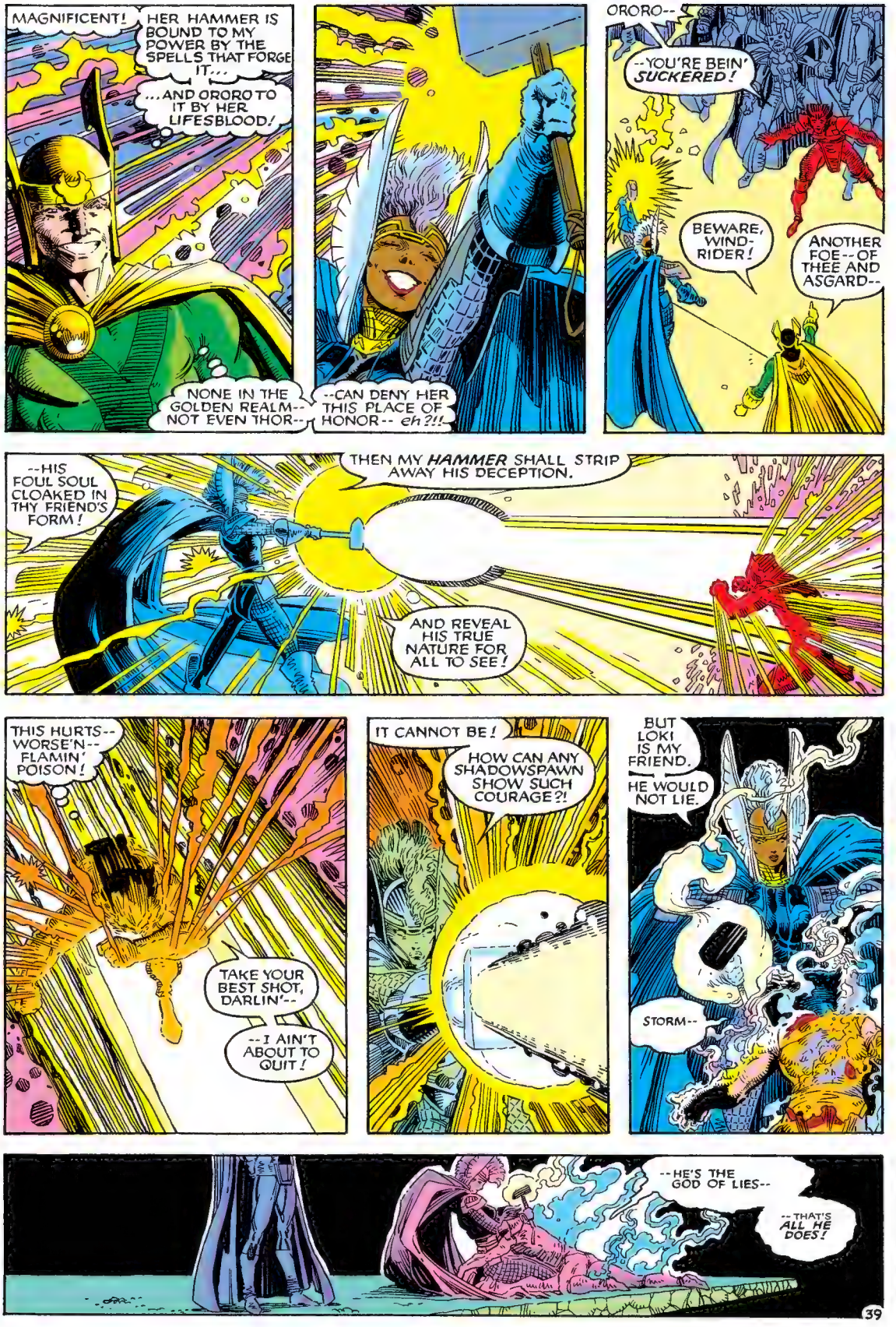

ORORO'S WHO I CARE ABOUT...
...AN' WHO I'M GOIN' TO THE WALL FOR.


WARRIOR-- ART UNWELL?
I'M FINE, DARLIN'. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
'CAUSE THERE'S NOTHIN' YOU-- OR ANYONE-- CAN DO.
GOTTA STAY ON MY FEET, JUST A WHILE LONGER.
ONCE THE JOB'S DONE...
...THEN... I CAN LET GO.
LOKI'S...
WHRAM!
SHADOWCAT-- SHAN AN' ILLYANA ARE OUT COLD, BUT AH DON'T THINK IT WAS ME SMASHIN' THROUGH THE WALL THAT DID IT. NO SIGN OF ANYBODY ELSE!
THEY'RE CLOSE BY, SAM. MY WOLF-FORM SCENTED THEM.
BETTER SHIFT BACK INTO IT, RAHNE...
HEADS UP, GIRL!
...AND TRACK 'EM DOWN-- OH?!!
ZAMP!
SORRY ABOUT THAT CLOSE CALL, KATZCHEN. BECAUSE HE'S ILLYANA'S BROTHER, PETER PROVED MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE SPELL LOKI MADE HER CAST.
IF SHAN HADN'T POSSESSED HER-- AND BROKEN LOKI'S HOLD--
-- WE'D HAVE ALL ENDED UP LIKE THAT.
ONCE HE WAKES, HE SHOULD BE IN HIS RIGHT MIND AGAIN.
BOY, AM I GLAD YOU GUYS ARE OKAY!
THE OTHERS NEED US-- THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE!!


FELLOW ASGARDIANS, I PRESENT A WARRIOR-MAID-- PURE OF SOUL, NOBLE OF HEART-- FITTING HEIR TO THOR'S PLACE SHOULD HE CHOOSE TO RESIDE ON MIDGARD, AMONGST THE MORTALS HE DEARLY LOVES...
...OR, NORNS FORFEND, NE'ER RETURN FROM HIS QUEST TO HEL! *
*AS CHRONICLED IN THOR #'S 361-362 --AnnN.
HER NAME IS ORORO--
--WHICH, IN HER NATIVE TONGUE, MEANS BEAUTY, AND THAT SHE IS, IN SPIRIT AS IN FORM.
I WOULD HAVE YOU WELCOME HER, AS-- WHOULFLP!?!
RACHEL'S TELEKINETICALLY TIED UP LOKI, 'LOCK--
--LET'S GRAB AMARA!
ORORO--
--SNAP OUT OF IT, DARLI
AIEHRR!
WOLVERINE--?! SOMETHING'S TERRIBLY WRONG!
WHO ARE THESE UPSTARTS, WHO DARE ATTACK A LORD OF ASGARD?!
WE'RE PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS-- BUB!
WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING OF IT?!

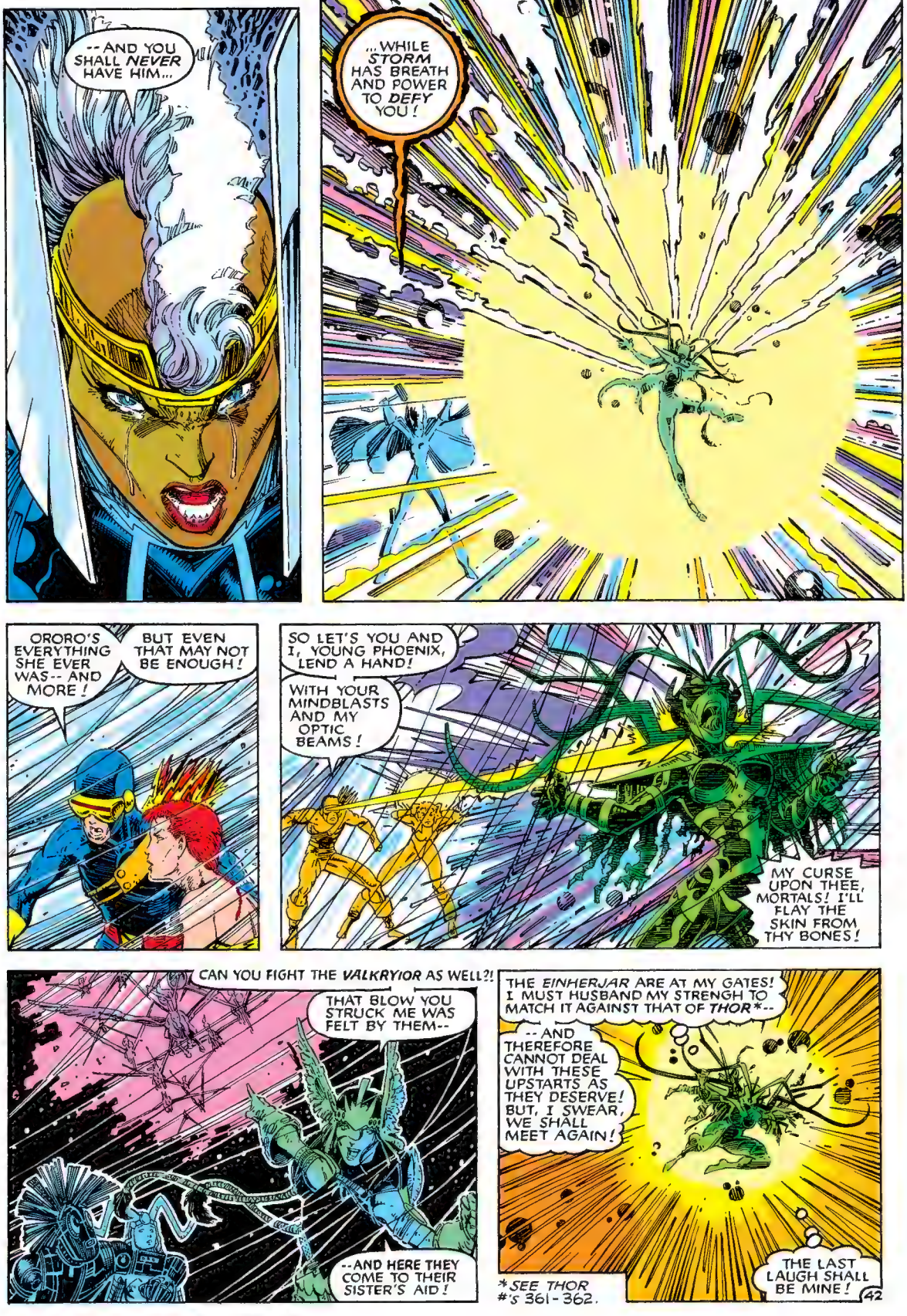
THINE INTERVENTION, YOUTH, WAS NOT ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED.
SNAP!
RUGRI-- DISPOSE OF THESE PETTY ANNOYANCES.
ROCK TROLLS--!
ASGARD'S ANCIENT FOES--?!
HOW DARE LOKI SUMMON SUCH AS THESE TO THIS SACRED PLACE?!
TOO MANY OF THESE BUGGERS TO HANDLE ON MY OWN--!
KITTY-- IF YOU HEAR ME, COME A'RUNNIN'!
I WAS HOPING FOR SOMEWHAT MORE POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE.
A CELEBRATION TO BEFIT SUCH A GREAT OCCASION.
BUT NEVER MIND--
--THIS ALONE IS WHAT MATTERS.
ORORO-- REACH INTO THE FIRE--
NO!
ORORO-- DON'T!
--TAKE UP THY DESTINY!

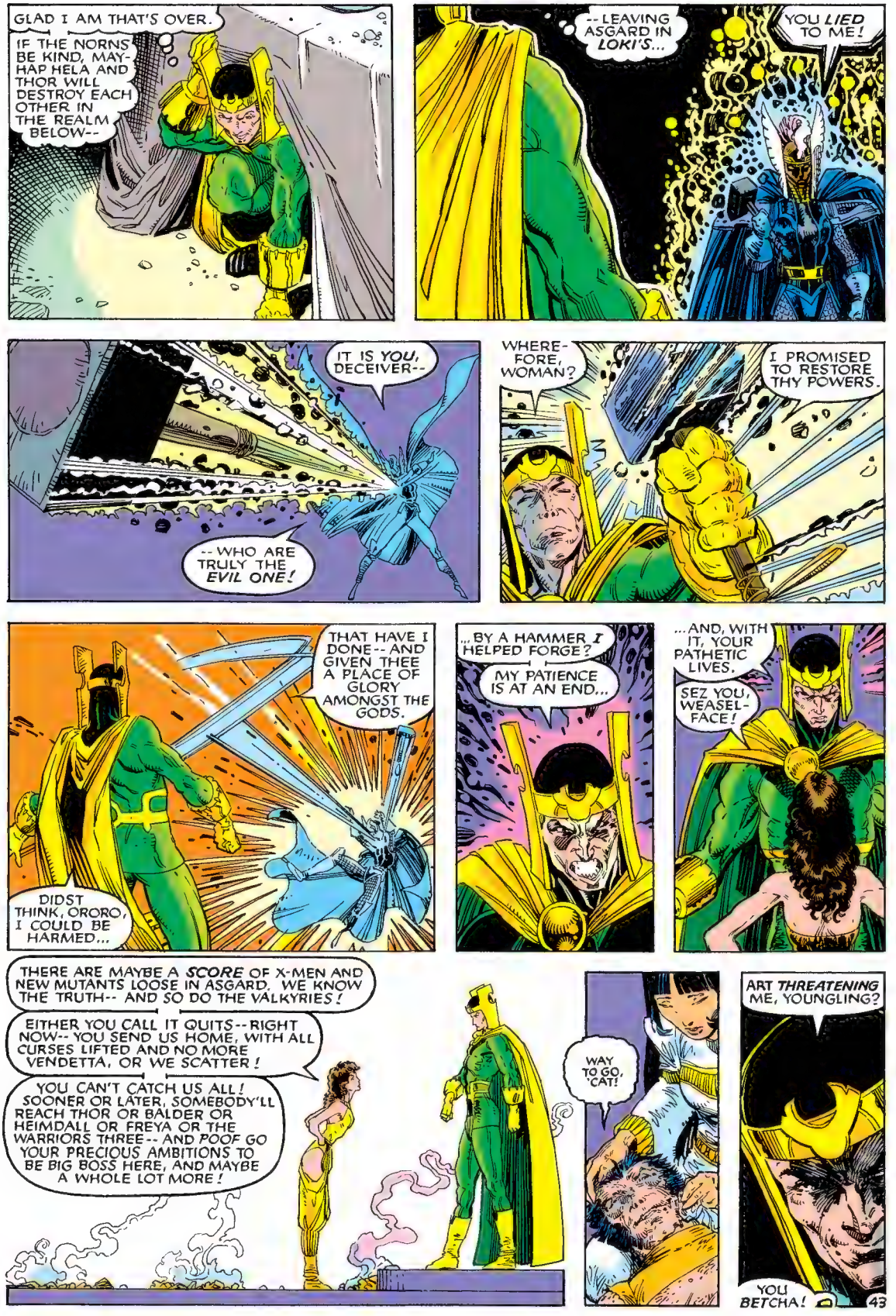
FOR NOW AND EVER-MORE, WIND-RIDER...
...ART THOU TRULY--
KAH KOWWW
BLAM!
--STORM!
WAHBOOM
BADA
BOOM!

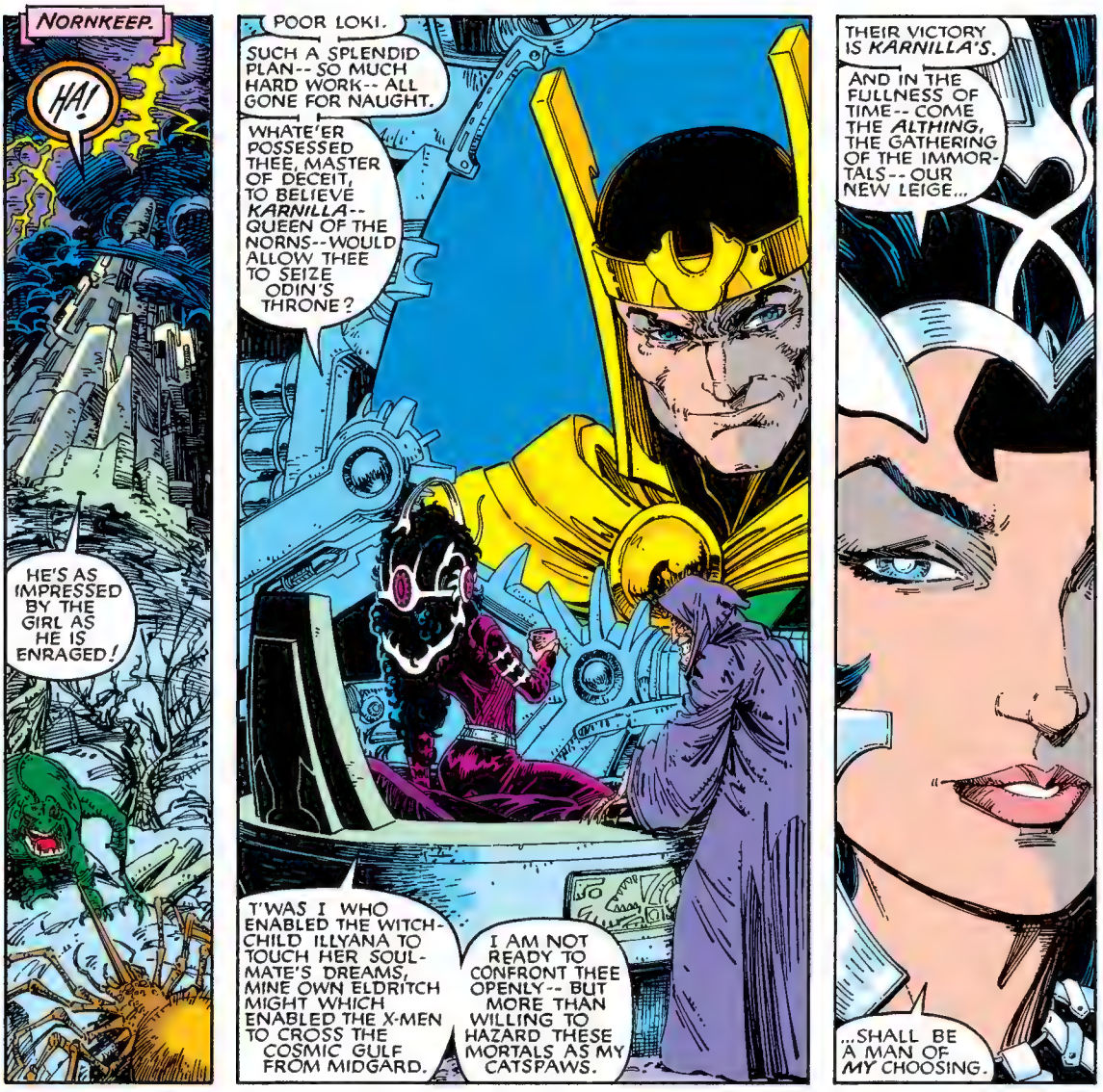

MAGNIFICENT!
HER HAMMER IS BOUND TO MY POWER BY THE SPELLS THAT FORGE IT...
...AND ORORO TO IT BY HER LIFESBLOOD!
NONE IN THE GOLDEN REALM-- NOT EVEN THOR--
--CAN DENY HER THIS PLACE OF HONOR-- eh?!!
ORORO--
--YOU'RE BEIN' SUCKERED!
BEWARE, WIND-RIDER!
ANOTHER FOE--OF THEE AND ASGARD--
--HIS FOUL SOUL CLOAKED IN THY FRIEND'S FORM!
THEN MY HAMMER SHALL STRIP AWAY HIS DECEPTION.
AND REVEAL HIS TRUE NATURE FOR ALL TO SEE!
THIS HURTS-- WORSE'N-- FLAMIN' POISON!
TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT, DARLIN'--
--I AIN'T ABOUT TO QUIT!
IT CANNOT BE!
HOW CAN ANY SHADOWSPAWN SHOW SUCH COURAGE?!
BUT LOKI IS MY FRIEND.
HE WOULD NOT LIE.
STORM--
--HE'S THE GOD OF LIES--
--THAT'S ALL HE DOES!

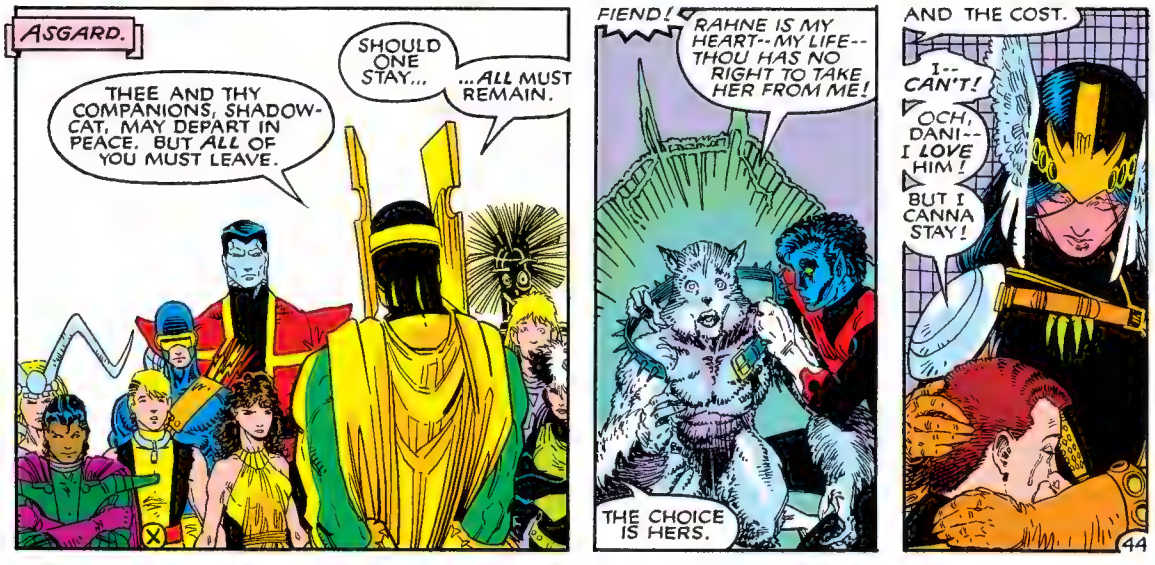
STAND THOU ASIDE--
--GODDESS OF THE STORM--
--THAT HELA MAY EXECUTE HER RIGHTFUL CHARGE--
--AND CLAIM YON MORTAL HERO'S SOUL!
NO!
THY PROTEST IS TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE.
THINE WAS THE HAND THAT STRUCK HIM DOWN. I DO BUT FINISH WHAT THOU HAST BEGUN.
LEAVE HIM ALONE!!
WHO--?!
DANIELLE MOONSTAR?!!
BACK AWAY, LADY! I WON'T WARN YOU TWICE!
WOLVERINE'S DYING! WAS THIS WHAT MY VISION MEANT?!
WHAT THE HECK GIVES-- WHERE'D THAT POWER COME FROM-- I COULD NEVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT?!!
FOOLISH CHILD. THOU ART A VALKYRIE-- ONE OF ODIN'S WARRIOR-MAIDS, HIS CHOOSERS OF THE SLAIN!
THOU SHOULDST BE STANDING BY MY SIDE-- TO AID ME--
--NOT KEEPING ME FROM MINE APPOINTED TASK.

A--?!?
IS THAT WHO MY FRIEND, MIST, AND HER SISTERS--!?!
SPIRITS OF MY ANCESTORS--
--HAVE MERCY!
IF THAT'S WHO I AM-- WHAT MY STAY IN ASGARD HAS MADE ME--
-- THEN, HELA, I CHOOSE TO SLAY YOU!
PRESUMPTUOUS GIRL, LET THIS MILD CHASTISEMENT...
...TEACH THEE-- AND ANY OTHER WHO SEEKS TO BAR MY WAY...
"...THY PROPER PLACE."
WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
ORORO--
-- WHATEVER LOKI... OFFERED... NO MATTER... HOW... WONDERFUL...
...WASN'T FOR YOU... BUT FOR HIM!
HE'S USIN' YOU, DARLIN'
GIVE ME WHAT I REQUIRE AND I SHALL LEAVE THEE IN PEACE.
WOLVERINE IS NOT DEAD YET, QUEEN OF HEL--
41


--AND YOU SHALL NEVER HAVE HIM...
...WHILE STORM HAS BREATH AND POWER TO DEFY YOU!
ORORO'S EVERYTHING SHE EVER WAS-- AND MORE!
BUT EVEN THAT MAY NOT BE ENOUGH!
SO LET'S YOU AND I, YOUNG PHOENIX, LEND A HAND!
WITH YOUR MINDBLASTS AND MY OPTIC BEAMS!
MY CURSE UPON THEE, MORTALS! I'LL FLAY THE SKIN FROM THY BONES!
CAN YOU FIGHT THE VALKRYIOR AS WELL?!
THAT BLOW YOU STRUCK ME WAS FELT BY THEM--
--AND HERE THEY COME TO THEIR SISTER'S AID!
THE EINHERJAR ARE AT MY GATES! I MUST HUSBAND MY STRENGH TO MATCH IT AGAINST THAT OF THOR*--
--AND THEREFORE CANNOT DEAL WITH THESE UPSTARTS AS THEY DESERVE! BUT, I SWEAR, WE SHALL MEET AGAIN!
THE LAST LAUGH SHALL BE MINE!
*SEE THOR #'S 361-362.
42

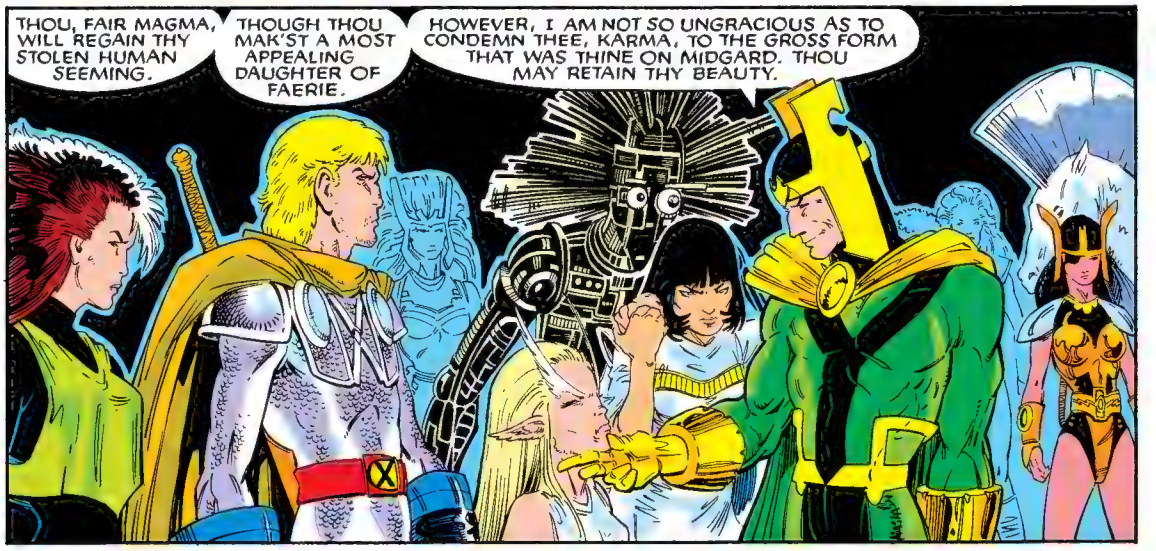

GLAD I AM THAT'S OVER.
IF THE NORNS BE KIND, MAY-HAP HELA AND THOR WILL DESTROY EACH OTHER IN THE REALM BELOW--
--LEAVING ASGARD IN LOKI'S...
YOU LIED TO ME!
IT IS YOU, DECEIVER--
--WHO ARE TRULY THE EVIL ONE!
WHERE-FORE, WOMAN?
I PROMISED TO RESTORE THY POWERS.
THAT HAVE I DONE-- AND GIVEN THEE A PLACE OF GLORY AMONGST THE GODS.
DIDST THINK, ORORO, I COULD BE HARMED...
...BY A HAMMER I HELPED FORGE?
MY PATIENCE IS AT AN END...
...AND, WITH IT, YOUR PATHETIC LIVES.
SEZ YOU, WEASEL-FACE!
THERE ARE MAYBE A SCORE OF X-MEN AND NEW MUTANTS LOOSE IN ASGARD. WE KNOW THE TRUTH-- AND SO DO THE VALKYRIES!
EITHER YOU CALL IT QUITS--RIGHT NOW-- YOU SEND US HOME, WITH ALL CURSES LIFTED AND NO MORE VENDETTA, OR WE SCATTER!
YOU CAN'T CATCH US ALL! SOONER OR LATER, SOMEBODY'LL REACH THOR OR BALDER OR HEIMDALL OR FREYA OR THE WARRIORS THREE-- AND POOF GO YOUR PRECIOUS AMBITIONS TO BE BIG BOSS HERE, AND MAYBE A WHOLE LOT MORE!
WAY TO GO, 'CAT!
ART THREATENING ME, YOUNGLING?
YOU BETCHA!


NORNKEEP.
HA!
HE'S AS IMPRESSED BY THE GIRL AS HE IS ENRAGED!
POOR LOKI.
SUCH A SPLENDID PLAN-- SO MUCH HARD WORK-- ALL GONE FOR NAUGHT.
WHATE'ER POSSESSED THEE, MASTER OF DECEIT, TO BELIEVE KARNILLA-- QUEEN OF THE NORNS--WOULD ALLOW THEE TO SEIZE ODIN'S THRONE?
T'WAS I WHO ENABLED THE WITCH-CHILD ILLYANA TO TOUCH HER SOUL-MATE'S DREAMS, MINE OWN ELDRITCH MIGHT WHICH ENABLED THE X-MEN TO CROSS THE COSMIC GULF FROM MIDGARD.
I AM NOT READY TO CONFRONT THEE OPENLY-- BUT MORE THAN WILLING TO HAZARD THESE MORTALS AS MY CATSPAWS.
THEIR VICTORY IS KARNILLA'S.
AND IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME-- COME THE ALTHING, THE GATHERING OF THE IMMORTALS-- OUR NEW LEIGE...
...SHALL BE A MAN OF MY CHOOSING.

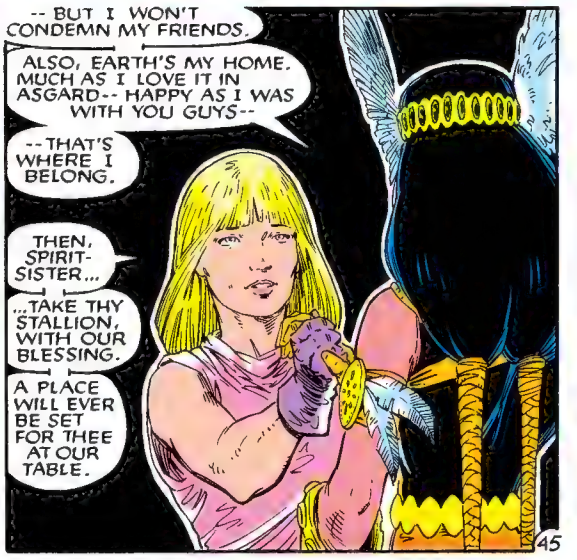

ASGARD.
THEE AND THY COMPANIONS, SHADOW-CAT, MAY DEPART IN PEACE. BUT ALL OF YOU MUST LEAVE.
SHOULD ONE STAY...
...ALL MUST REMAIN.
FIEND!
RAHNE IS MY HEART-- MY LIFE-- THOU HAS NO RIGHT TO TAKE HER FROM ME!
THE CHOICE IS HERS.
AND THE COST.
I-- CAN'T!
OCH, DANI-- I LOVE HIM!
BUT I CANNA STAY!

IN ADDITION, ANY POWERS, GIFTS, ENCHANTMENTS YOU HAVE GAINED HERE SHALL BE STRIPPED FROM YOU.
THY MAGIC BLADE AND ARMOR, FOR EXAMPLE, CANNONBALL, WILL BECOME SIMPLE STEEL. AND THE SPELLS LEARNED FROM THE *ENCHANTRESS' GRIMOIRES*, ILLYANA, SHALL BE FORGOTTEN.
IN ADDITION, THOU WILT RETURN HER-- I TRUST, LASS, FOR THY SAKE, UNHARMED-- FROM HER IMPRISONMENT IN THY REALM OF LIMBO.*

*WHERE THE KIDS STUCK HER AT THE END OF NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL EDITION #1


THOU, FAIR MAGMA, WILL REGAIN THY STOLEN HUMAN SEEMING.
THOUGH THOU MAK'ST A MOST APPEALING DAUGHTER OF FAERIE.
HOWEVER, I AM NOT SO UNGRACIOUS AS TO CONDEMN THEE, KARMA, TO THE GROSS FORM THAT WAS THINE ON MIDGARD. THOU MAY RETAIN THY BEAUTY.

HOLD, DECEIVER!
BY *ODIN'S* LAW, HORSE AND RIDER MAY NOT BE SEPARATED ONCE THE *BONDING* HAS BEEN MADE!
NEVER-THELESS, VALKYRIE, MY WILL IS ADAMANT.
MIST, IT'LL BREAK MY HEART TO LOSE BRIGHTWIND-- I THINK I'D RATHER LOSE MY SOUL--


-- BUT I WON'T CONDEMN MY FRIENDS.
ALSO, EARTH'S MY HOME. MUCH AS I LOVE IT IN ASGARD-- HAPPY AS I WAS WITH YOU GUYS--
--THAT'S WHERE I BELONG.
THEN, SPIRIT-SISTER...
...TAKE THY STALLION, WITH OUR BLESSING.
A PLACE WILL EVER BE SET FOR THEE AT OUR TABLE.

ON MIDGARD, ORORO, THOU WILT ONCE MORE BE MERELY A WOMAN.
WITHOUT THE POWER TO FLY, TO WIELD LIGHTNING, TO COMMAND THE WIND AND STORM.
THE X-MEN AND THEIR WORLD HOLD NO PLACE FOR THEE. LET THEM GO.
STAY, STORM. BE A GODDESS. RULE ASGARD BY MY SIDE.
BUT KNOW, THAT SHOULDST THOU REFUSE ME, WE ARE QUITS. I SHALL CAST THEE FROM MY HEART, AS I DO THY COMRADES FROM MY REALM, NE'ER TO RETURN.
SWEET WORDS...
...A TEMPTING OFFER...
...O LORD OF LIES!
BUT ASGARD IS NOT YOUR REALM, LOKI...
RUMBLE RUMBLE
SSSCRAKA KATAKAA TOUWWWW
...AND I SHALL BE NO PARTY-- NOW OR EVER--
--TO MAKING IT SO!
PONGK!
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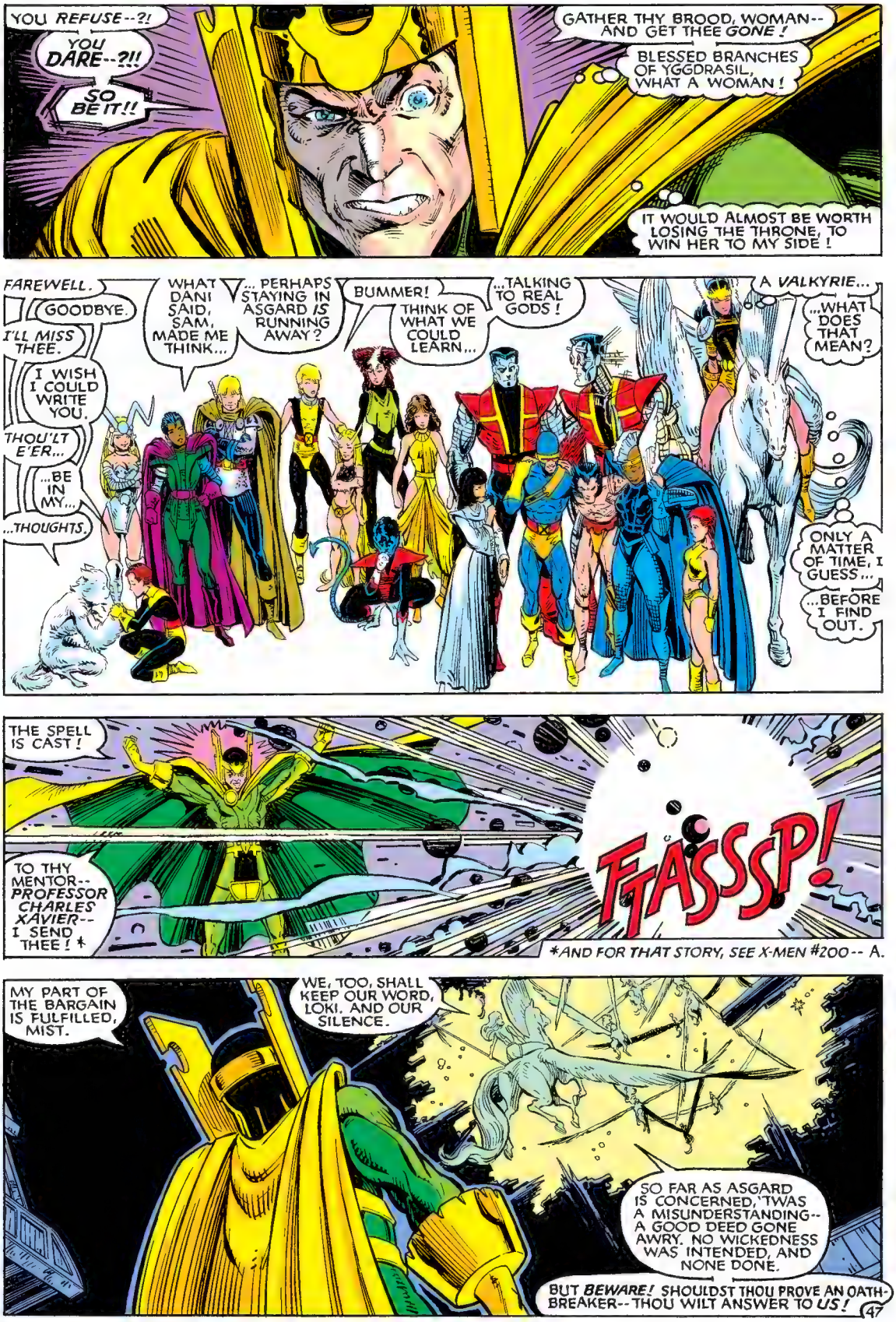
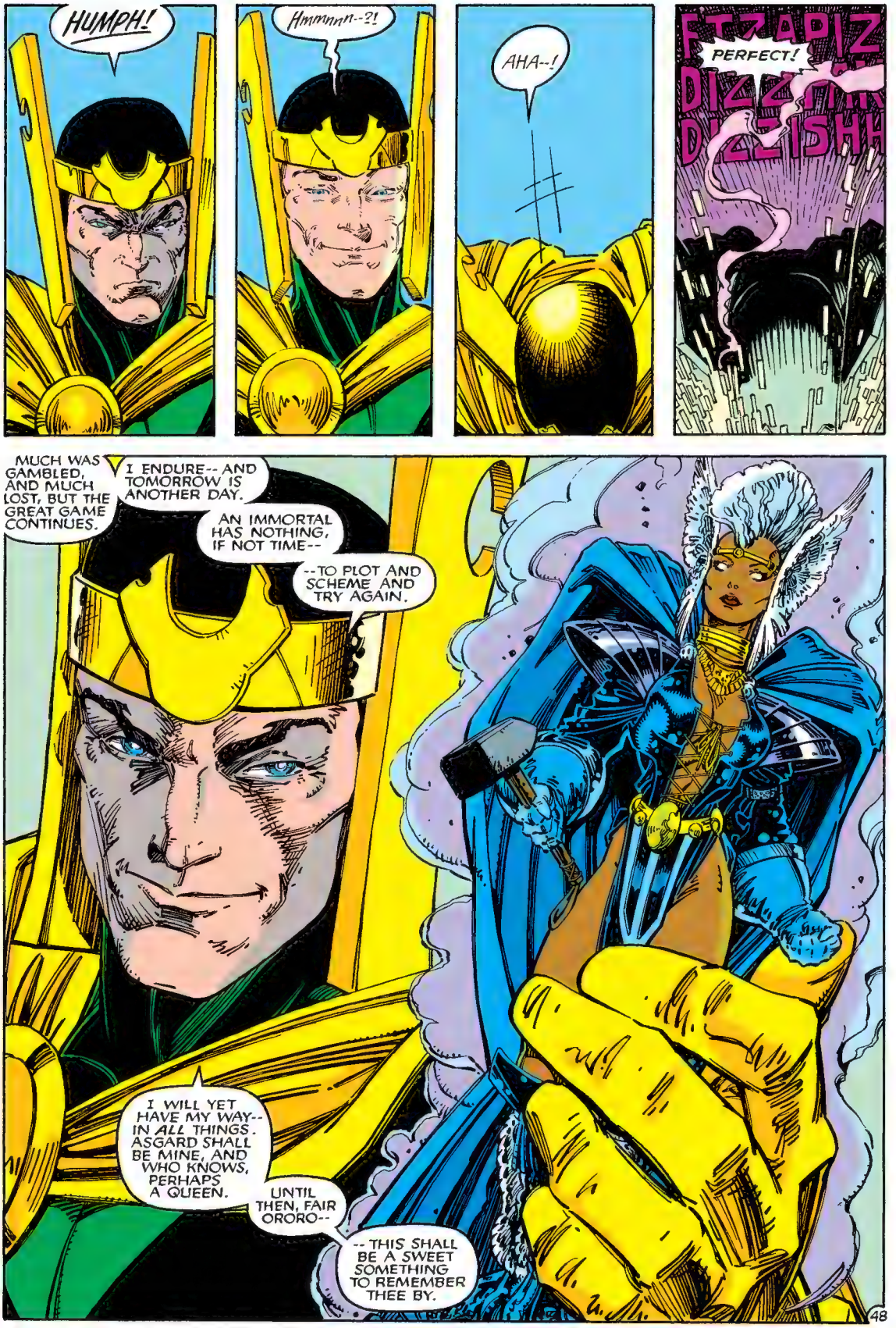

YOU REFUSE--?!
YOU DARE--?!!
SO BE IT!!
GATHER THY BROOD, WOMAN-- AND GET THEE GONE!
BLESSED BRANCHES OF YGGDRASIL, WHAT A WOMAN!
IT WOULD ALMOST BE WORTH LOSING THE THRONE, TO WIN HER TO MY SIDE!
FAREWELL.
GOODBYE.
I'LL MISS THEE.
I WISH I COULD WRITE YOU.
THOU'LT E'ER...
...BE IN MY...
...THOUGHTS.
WHAT DANI SAID, SAM, MADE ME THINK...
...PERHAPS STAYING IN ASGARD IS RUNNING AWAY?
BUMMER!
THINK OF WHAT WE COULD LEARN...
...TALKING TO REAL GODS!
A VALKYRIE...
...WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, I GUESS...
...BEFORE I FIND OUT.
THE SPELL IS CAST!
TO THY MENTOR-- PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER-- I SEND THEE!*
FTASSSP!
*AND FOR THAT STORY, SEE X-MEN #200-- A.
MY PART OF THE BARGAIN IS FULFILLED, MIST.
WE, TOO, SHALL KEEP OUR WORD, LOKI. AND OUR SILENCE.
SO FAR AS ASGARD IS CONCERNED, 'TWAS A MISUNDERSTANDING-- A GOOD DEED GONE AWRY. NO WICKEDNESS WAS INTENDED, AND NONE DONE.
BUT BEWARE! SHOULDST THOU PROVE AN OATH-BREAKER-- THOU WILT ANSWER TO US!


HUMPH!
Hmmmm--?!
AHA--!
PERFECT!
MUCH WAS GAMBLED, AND MUCH LOST, BUT THE GREAT GAME CONTINUES.
I ENDURE-- AND TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY.
AN IMMORTAL HAS NOTHING, IF NOT TIME--
--TO PLOT AND SCHEME AND TRY AGAIN.
I WILL YET HAVE MY WAY-- IN ALL THINGS. ASGARD SHALL BE MINE, AND WHO KNOWS, PERHAPS A QUEEN.
UNTIL THEN, FAIR ORORO--
-- THIS SHALL BE A SWEET SOMETHING TO REMEMBER THEE BY.

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THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
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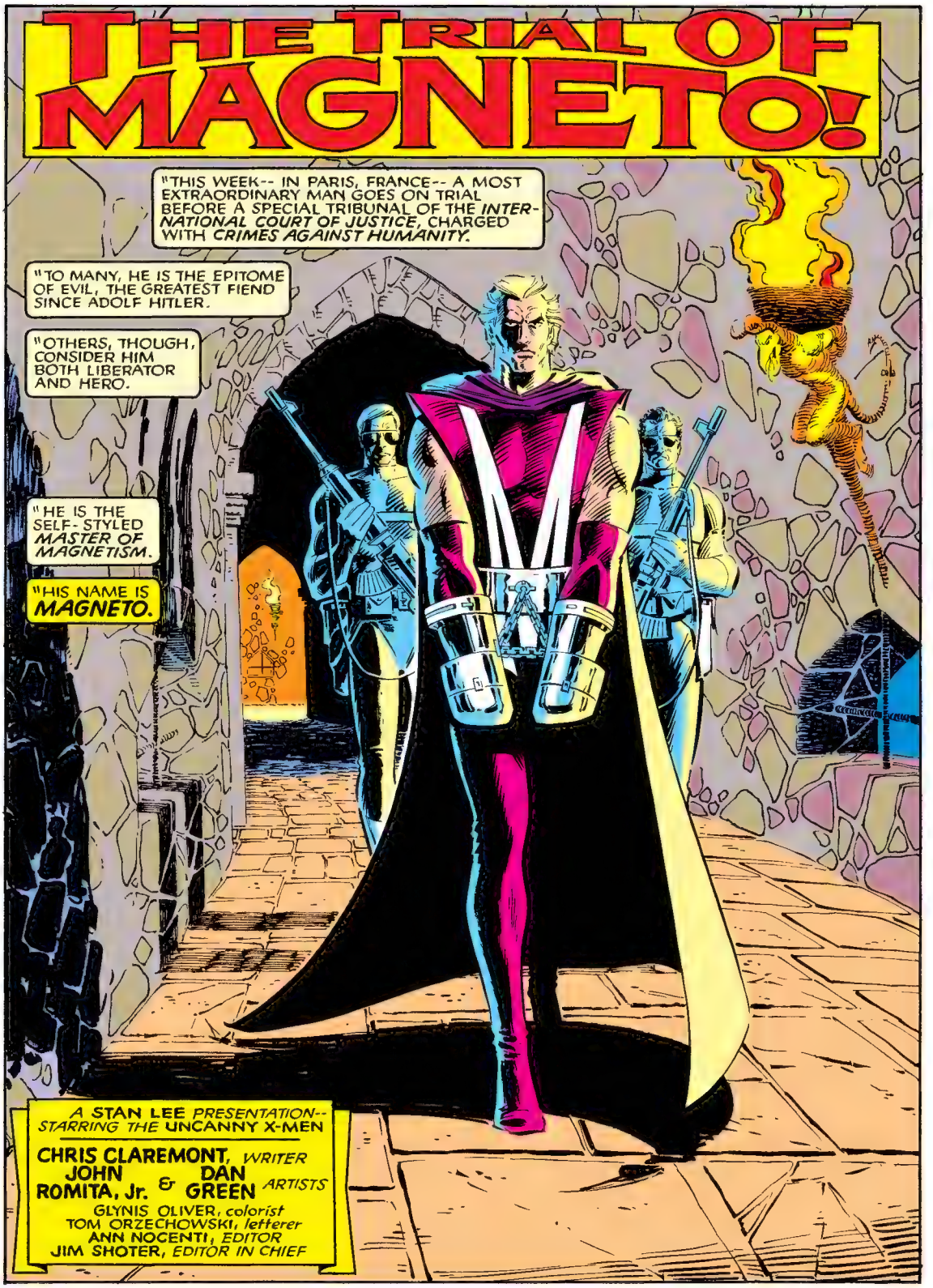
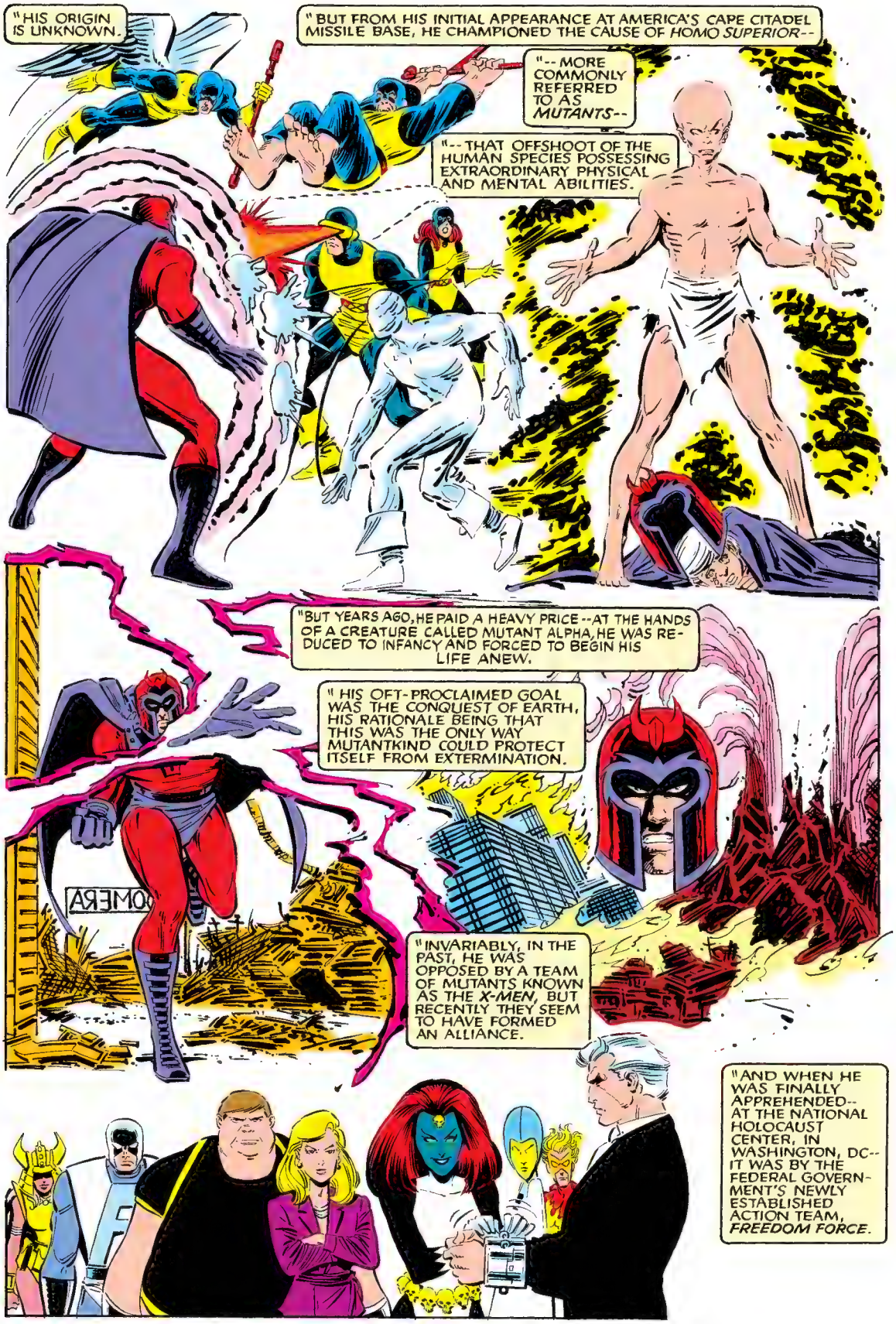
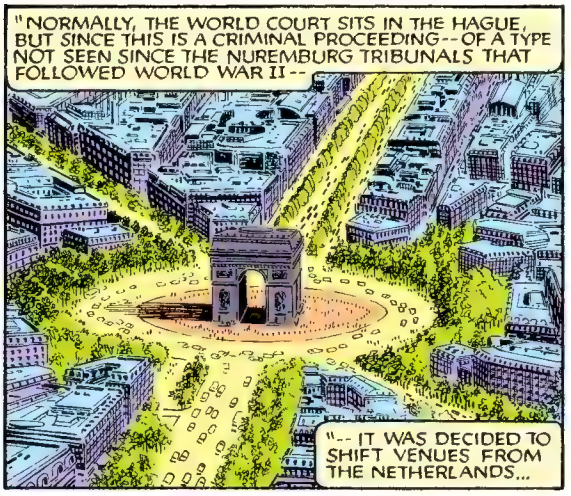
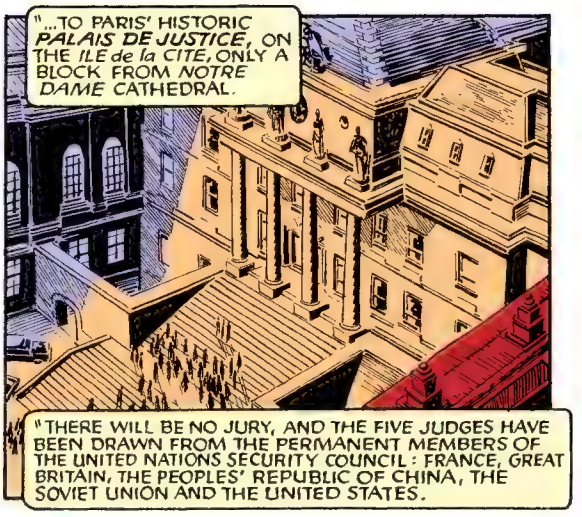
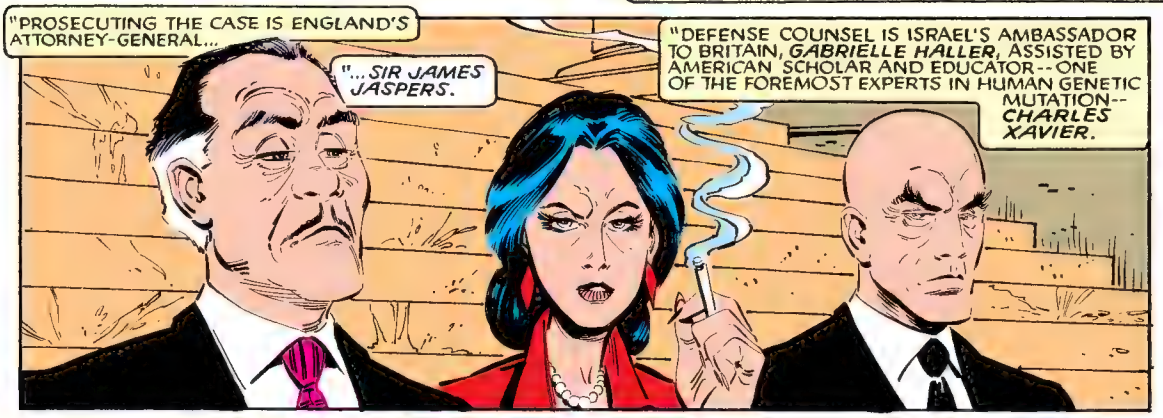

THE TRIAL OF MAGNETO!
"THIS WEEK-- IN PARIS, FRANCE-- A MOST EXTRAORDINARY MAN GOES ON TRIAL BEFORE A SPECIAL TRIBUNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, CHARGED WITH CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY.
"TO MANY, HE IS THE EPITOME OF EVIL, THE GREATEST FIEND SINCE ADOLF HITLER.
"OTHERS, THOUGH, CONSIDER HIM BOTH LIBERATOR AND HERO.
"HE IS THE SELF-STYLED MASTER OF MAGNETISM.
"HIS NAME IS MAGNETO.
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION-- STARRING THE UNCANNY X-MEN
CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
JOHN ROMITA, Jr. & DAN GREEN ARTISTS
GLYNIS OLIVER, colorist
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, letterer
ANN NOCENTI, EDITOR
JIM SHOTER, EDITOR IN CHIEF


"HIS ORIGIN IS UNKNOWN.
"BUT FROM HIS INITIAL APPEARANCE AT AMERICA'S CAPE CITADEL MISSILE BASE, HE CHAMPIONED THE CAUSE OF *HOMO SUPERIOR*--
"--MORE COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS *MUTANTS*--
"--THAT OFFSHOOT OF THE HUMAN SPECIES POSSESSING EXTRAORDINARY PHYSICAL AND MENTAL ABILITIES.
"BUT YEARS AGO, HE PAID A HEAVY PRICE--AT THE HANDS OF A CREATURE CALLED MUTANT ALPHA, HE WAS REDUCED TO INFANCY AND FORCED TO BEGIN HIS LIFE ANEW.
"HIS OFT-PROCLAIMED GOAL WAS THE CONQUEST OF EARTH, HIS RATIONALE BEING THAT THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY MUTANTKIND COULD PROTECT ITSELF FROM EXTERMINATION.
"INVARIABLY, IN THE PAST, HE WAS OPPOSED BY A TEAM OF MUTANTS KNOWN AS THE *X-MEN*, BUT RECENTLY THEY SEEM TO HAVE FORMED AN ALLIANCE.
"AND WHEN HE WAS FINALLY APPREHENDED--AT THE NATIONAL HOLOCAUST CENTER, IN WASHINGTON, DC--IT WAS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S NEWLY ESTABLISHED ACTION TEAM, *FREEDOM FORCE*.

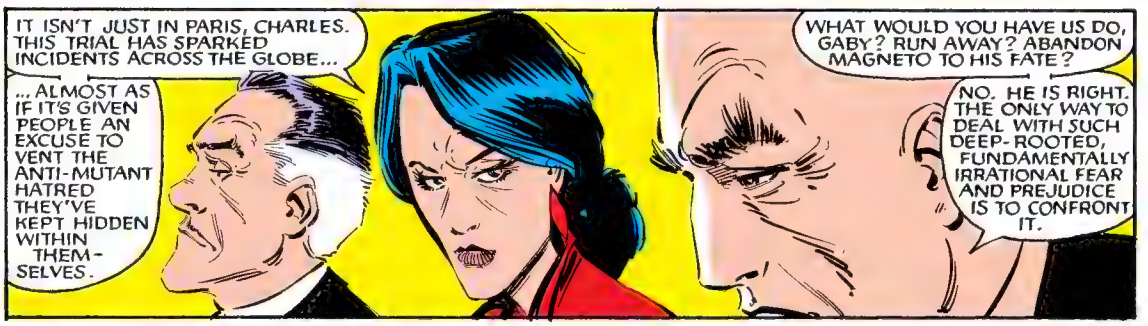

"NORMALLY, THE WORLD COURT SITS IN THE HAGUE, BUT SINCE THIS IS A CRIMINAL PROCEEDING--OF A TYPE NOT SEEN SINCE THE NUREMBURG TRIBUNALS THAT FOLLOWED WORLD WAR II--
"--IT WAS DECIDED TO SHIFT VENUES FROM THE NETHERLANDS...

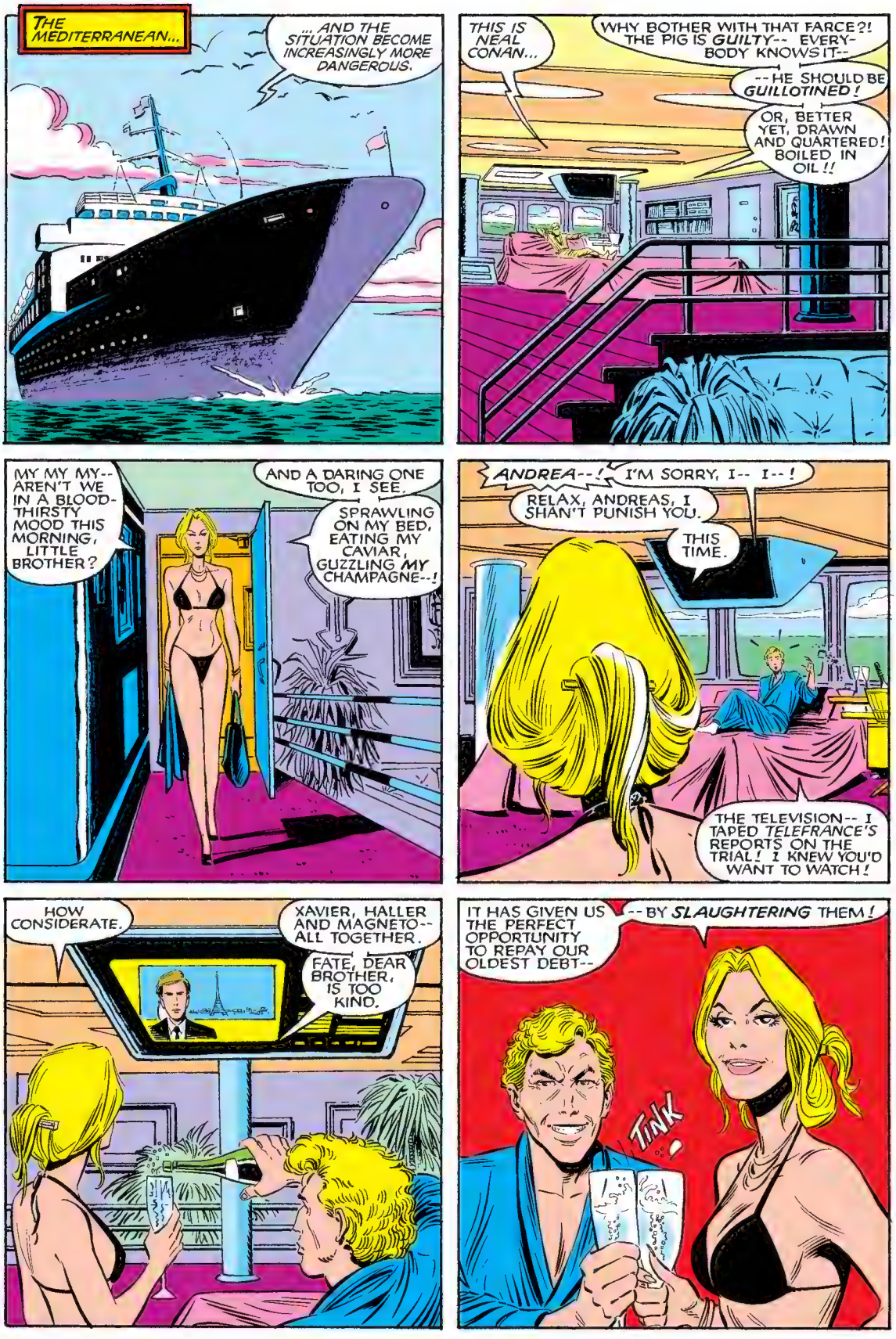

"...TO PARIS' HISTORIC *PALAIS DE JUSTICE*, ON THE *ILE de la CITE*, ONLY A BLOCK FROM *NOTRE DAME* CATHEDRAL.
"THERE WILL BE NO JURY, AND THE FIVE JUDGES HAVE BEEN DRAWN FROM THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL: FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN, THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF CHINA, THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES.


"PROSECUTING THE CASE IS ENGLAND'S ATTORNEY-GENERAL...
"...*SIR JAMES JASPERS*.
"DEFENSE COUNSEL IS ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO BRITAIN, ***GABRIELLE HALLER***, ASSISTED BY AMERICAN SCHOLAR AND EDUCATOR--ONE OF THE FOREMOST EXPERTS IN HUMAN GENETIC MUTATION--***CHARLES XAVIER***.

"FEELINGS ARE ALREADY RUNNING HIGH, AND THE MOOD IS UGLY. THERE HAVE BEEN DAILY PROTESTS, PROMPTING SOME OF THE HEAVIEST SECURITY MEASURES EVER SEEN.
"AS THE TRIAL PROGRESSES, THE IMPRESSION HERE IS, TENSION WILL CONTINUE TO GROW...

"... AND THE SITUATION BECOME INCREASINGLY MORE DANGEROUS.
"THIS IS ***NEAL CONAN***, NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO, REPORTING..."

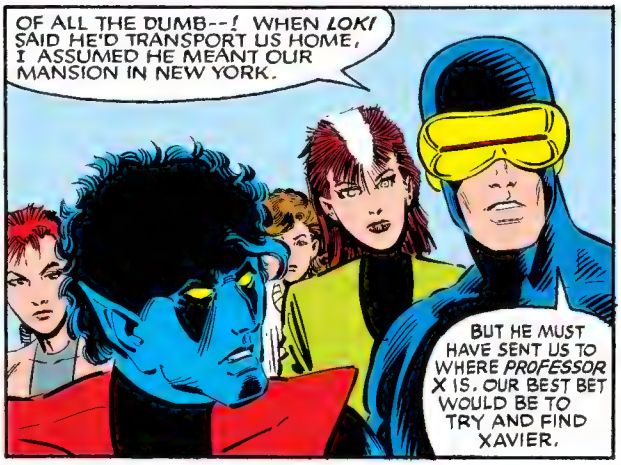

IT ISN'T JUST IN PARIS, CHARLES. THIS TRIAL HAS SPARKED INCIDENTS ACROSS THE GLOBE...
...ALMOST AS IF IT'S GIVEN PEOPLE AN EXCUSE TO VENT THE ANTI-MUTANT HATRED THEY'VE KEPT HIDDEN WITHIN THEMSELVES.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO, GABY? RUN AWAY? ABANDON MAGNETO TO HIS FATE?
NO. HE IS RIGHT. THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH SUCH DEEP-ROOTED, FUNDAMENTALLY IRRATIONAL FEAR AND PREJUDICE IS TO CONFRONT IT.

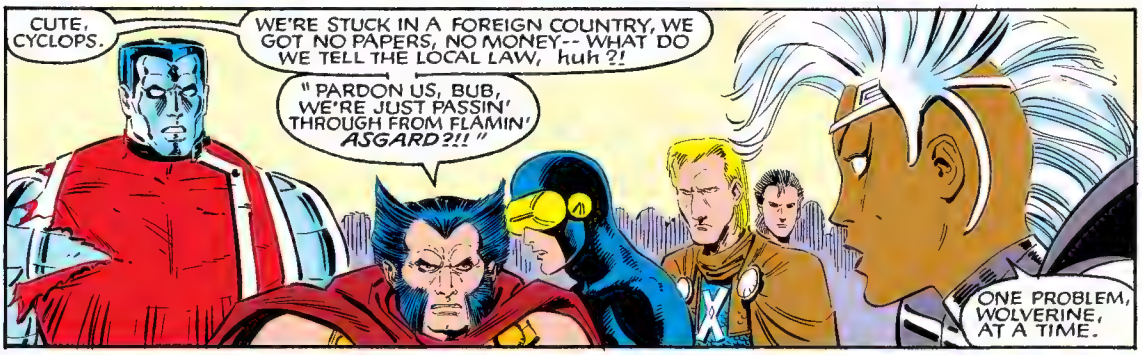

THE MEDITERRANEAN...
... AND THE SITUATION BECOME INCREASINGLY MORE DANGEROUS.
THIS IS NEAL CONAN...
WHY BOTHER WITH THAT FARCE?! THE PIG IS GUILTY-- EVERYBODY KNOWS IT--
--HE SHOULD BE GUILLOTINED!
OR, BETTER YET, DRAWN AND QUARTERED! BOILED IN OIL!!
MY MY MY-- AREN'T WE IN A BLOOD-THIRSTY MOOD THIS MORNING, LITTLE BROTHER?
AND A DARING ONE TOO, I SEE.
SPRAWLING ON MY BED, EATING MY CAVIAR, GUZZLING MY CHAMPAGNE--!
ANDREA--!
I'M SORRY, I-- I--!
RELAX, ANDREAS, I SHAN'T PUNISH YOU.
THIS TIME.
THE TELEVISION-- I TAPED TELEFRANCE'S REPORTS ON THE TRIAL! I KNEW YOU'D WANT TO WATCH!
HOW CONSIDERATE.
XAVIER, HALLER AND MAGNETO-- ALL TOGETHER.
FATE, DEAR BROTHER, IS TOO KIND.
IT HAS GIVEN US THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO REPAY OUR OLDEST DEBT--
--BY SLAUGHTERING THEM!
TINK!

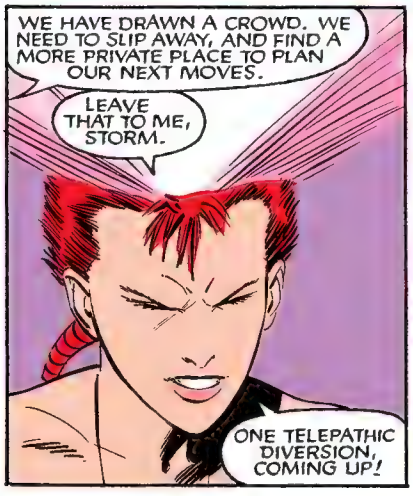
THE BAGATELLE, PART OF THE BOIS de BOULOGNE...
AT NIGHT, THIS GLORIOUS PARK-- ON THE WESTERN OUTSKIRTS OF PARIS-- BELONGS MOSTLY TO LOVERS.
BUT IN THE MORNING-- BETWEEN DAWN AND THE START OF THE WORKDAY-- ITS PATHS AND GARDENS ARE THE PROVINCE OF STROLLERS, JOGGERS, HORSEBACK RIDERS, STUDENTS SKYLARKING BEFORE SCHOOL. ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING ORDINARY THINGS...
...ARE WITNESS-- SUDDENLY AND QUITE WITHOUT WARNING--
--TO THE X-MEN'S AND NEW MUTANTS' MOST EXTRAORDINARY RETURN TO EARTH!*
*IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE BOTH TEAMS HAVE BEEN AND WHAT THEY'VE BEEN UP TO, READ NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL EDITION #1 AND X-MEN ANNUAL #9, ON SALE NOW-- AnnN (WHO WILL REALLY AND TRULY SHOOT CHRIS IF HE EVER PULLS AS STUPID A SCHEDULING STUNT AS THIS AGAIN, AND SHE REALLY MEANS IT!)
BANG!

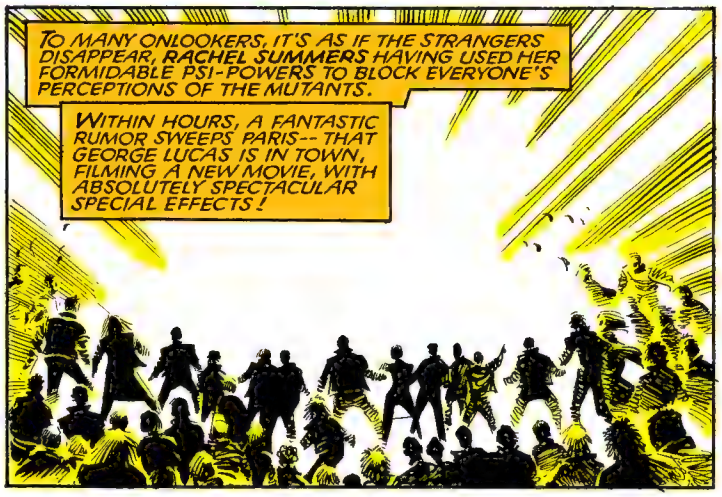
SAPRISTE!
QU'EST-CE QUE C'EST?!
QUI VEUX-LA?!
C'EST HORREUR!
CE SONT MONSTRES!
SOMEHOW, SOMEWHERE, MEIN FREUNDS, I THINK WE MADE A WRONG TURN.

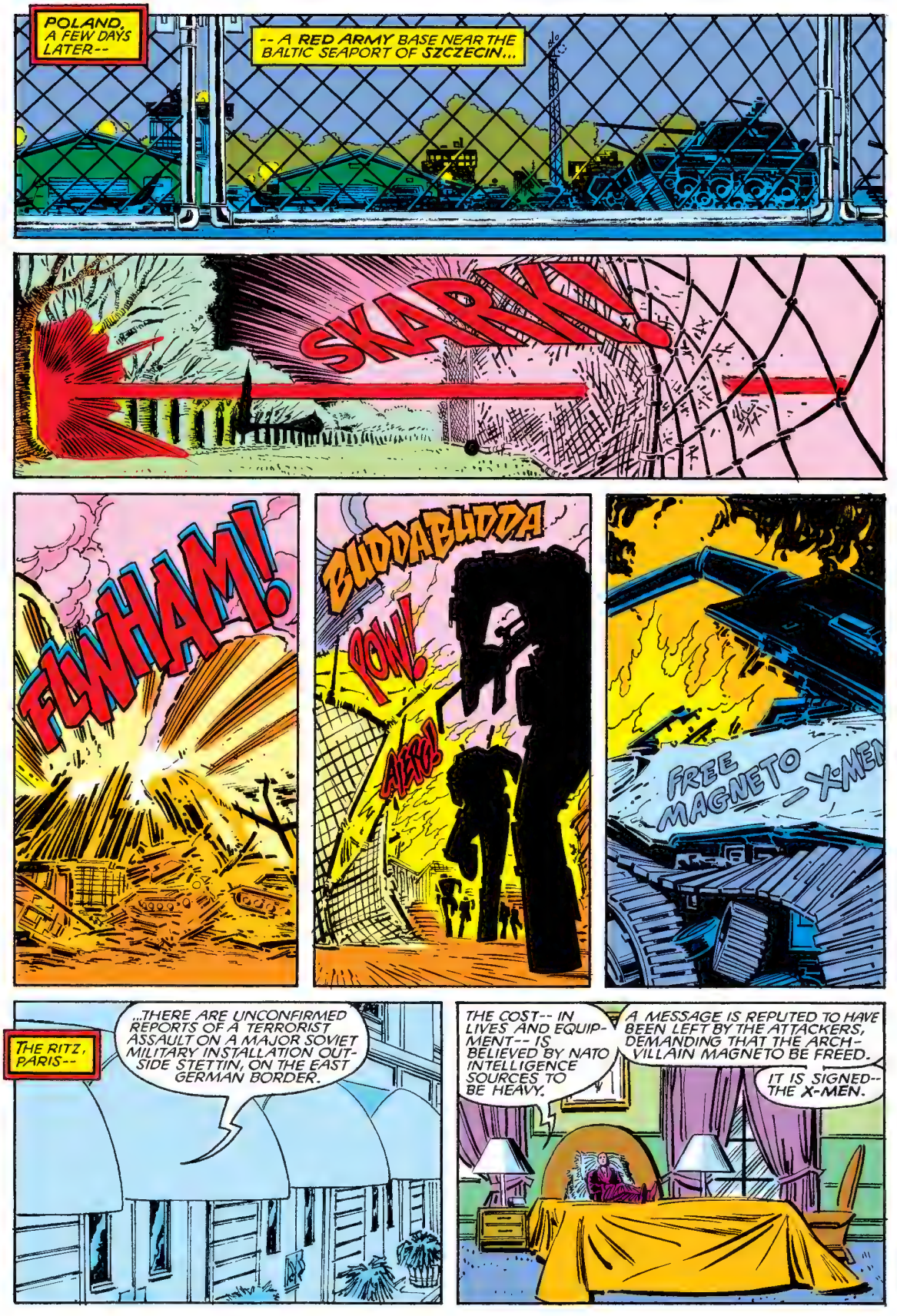
LEMME TALK TO THESE PEOPLE, NIGHTCRAWLER. I'LL FIND OUT WHERE WE ARE.
GREAT! FOR ONCE, MY TALENT WITH LANGUAGES IS GOING TO DO SOME GOOD!
THEY'RE SPEAKING FRENCH!
PARDON, M'SIEU-- OU SONT NOUS?
PARIS--!

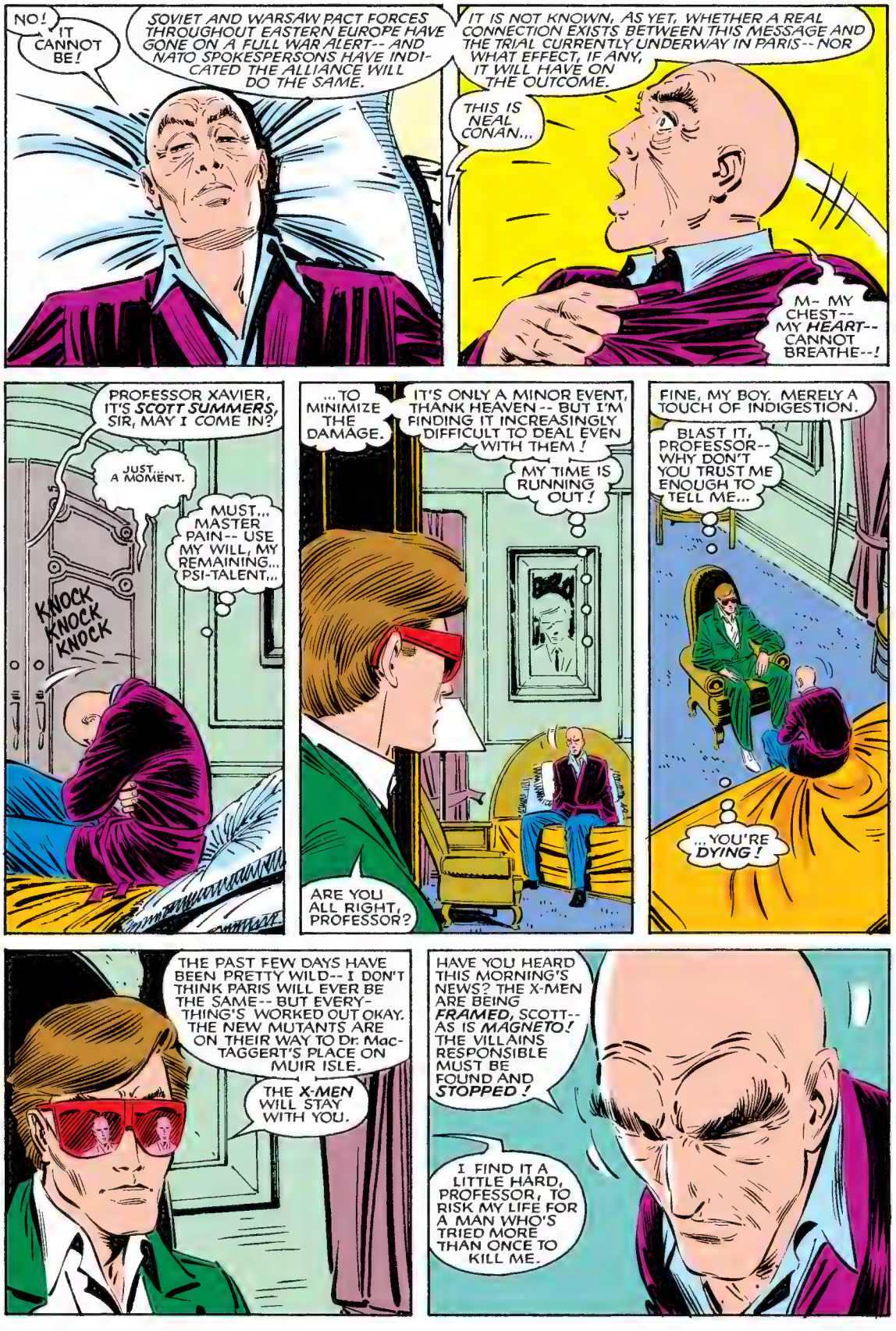

OF ALL THE DUMB--! WHEN LOKI SAID HE'D TRANSPORT US HOME, I ASSUMED HE MEANT OUR MANSION IN NEW YORK.
BUT HE MUST HAVE SENT US TO WHERE PROFESSOR X IS. OUR BEST BET WOULD BE TO TRY AND FIND XAVIER.

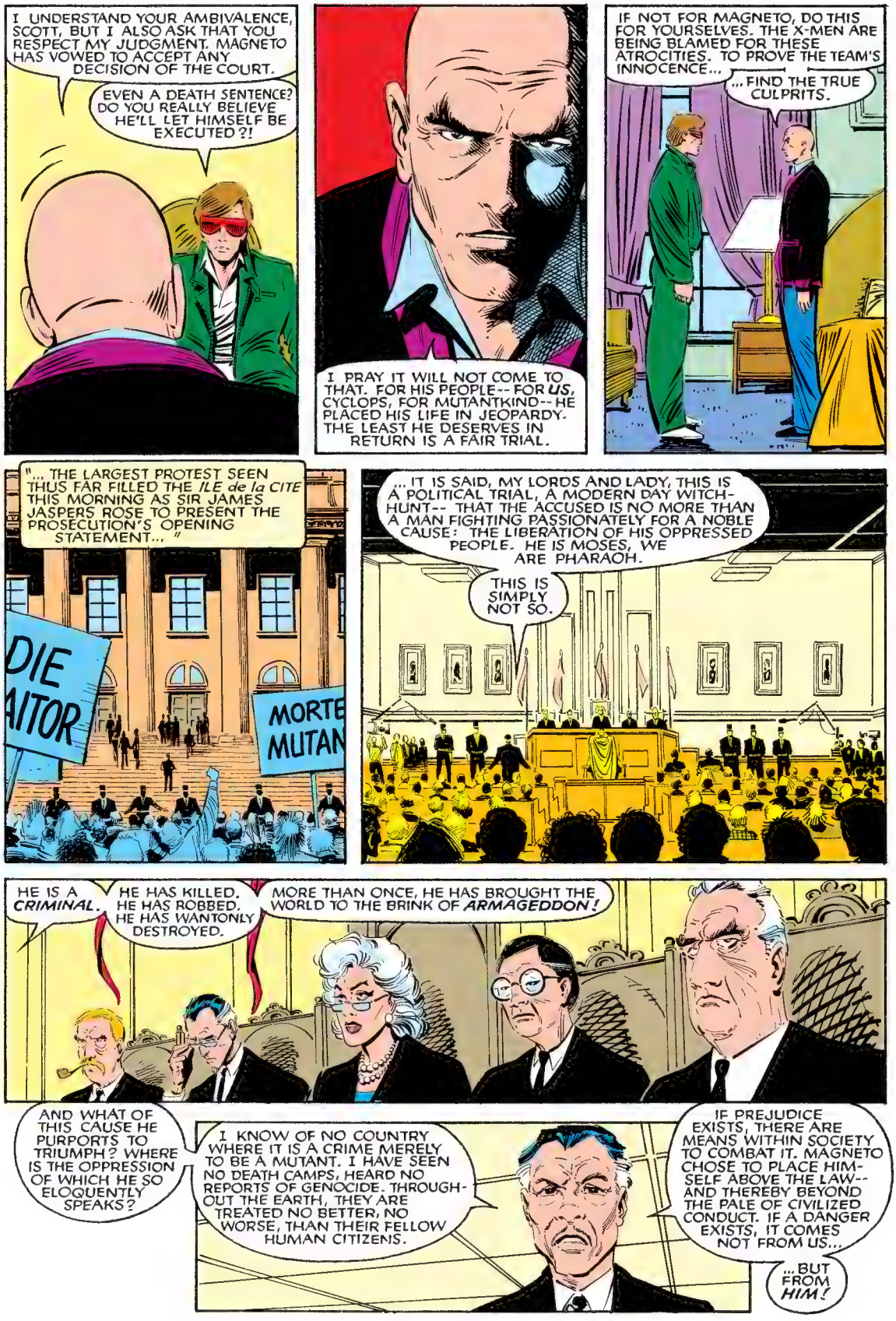

CUTE, CYCLOPS.
WE'RE STUCK IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY, WE GOT NO PAPERS, NO MONEY-- WHAT DO WE TELL THE LOCAL LAW, huh?!
"PARDON US, BUB, WE'RE JUST PASSIN' THROUGH FROM FLAMIN' ASGARD?!!"
ONE PROBLEM, WOLVERINE, AT A TIME.

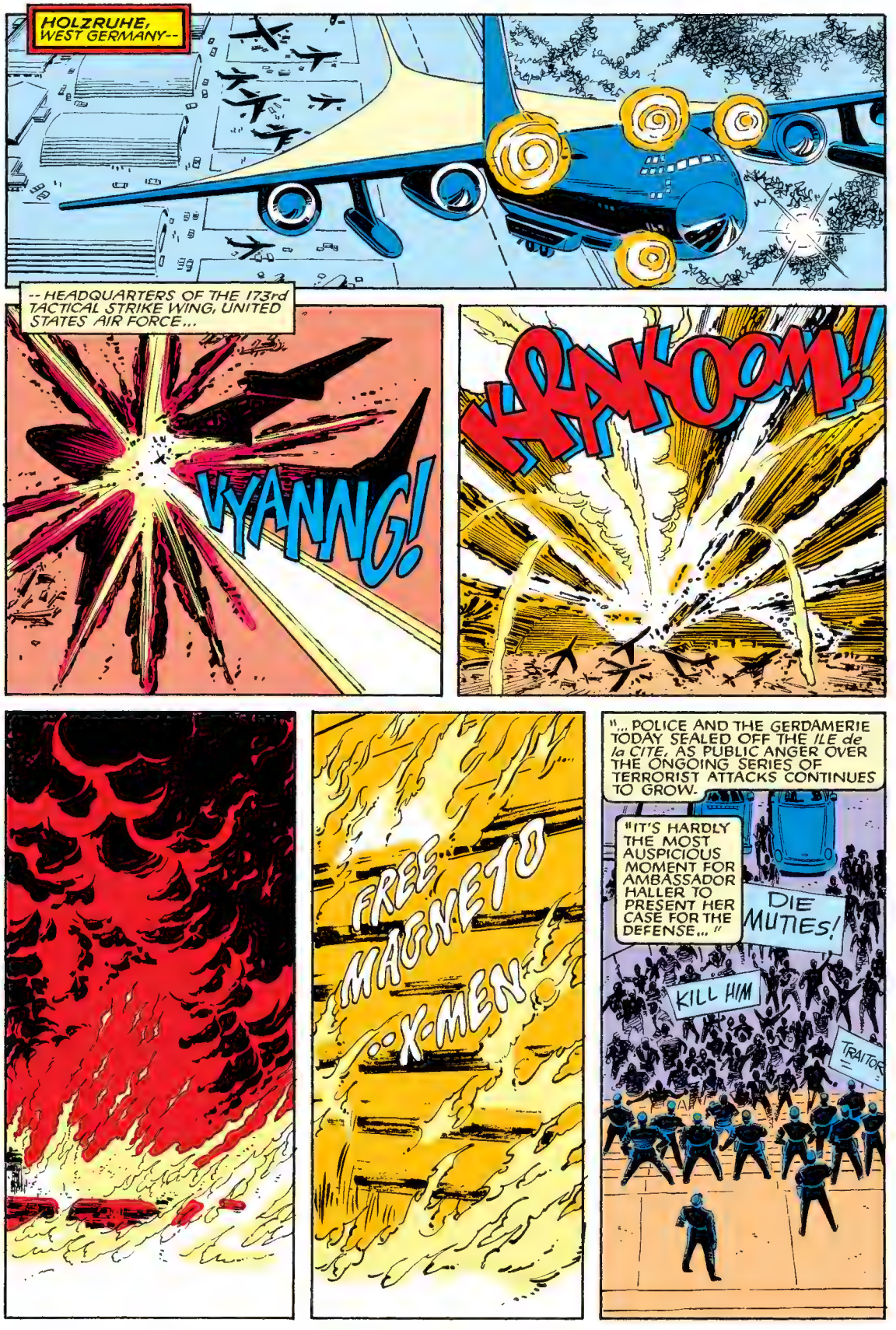

WE HAVE DRAWN A CROWD. WE NEED TO SLIP AWAY, AND FIND A MORE PRIVATE PLACE TO PLAN OUR NEXT MOVES.
LEAVE THAT TO ME, STORM.
ONE TELEPATHIC DIVERSION, COMING UP!

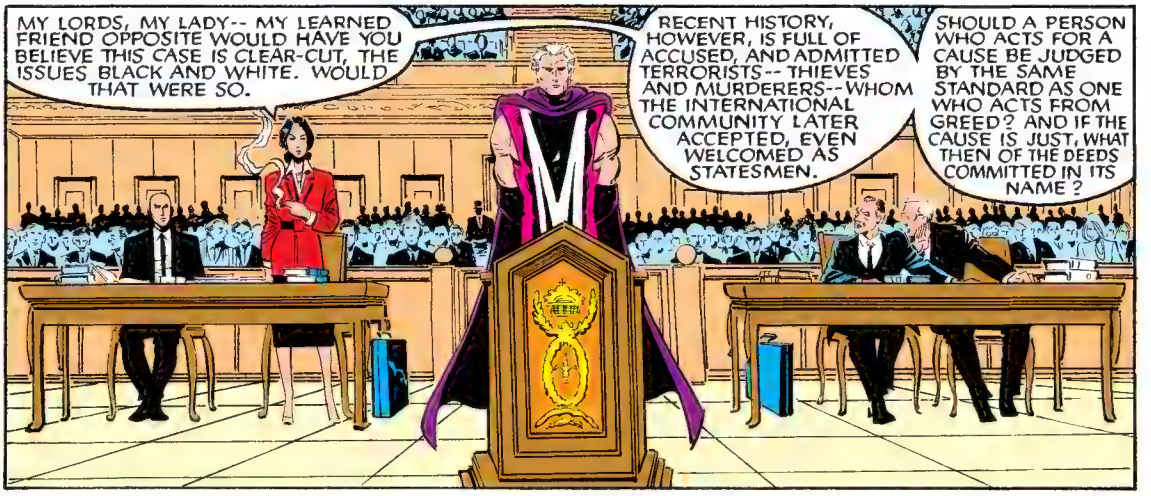

TO MANY ONLOOKERS, IT'S AS IF THE STRANGERS DISAPPEAR, RACHEL SUMMERS HAVING USED HER FORMIDABLE PSI-POWERS TO BLOCK EVERYONE'S PERCEPTIONS OF THE MUTANTS.
WITHIN HOURS, A FANTASTIC RUMOR SWEEPS PARIS-- THAT GEORGE LUCAS IS IN TOWN, FILMING A NEW MOVIE, WITH ABSOLUTELY SPECTACULAR SPECIAL EFFECTS!


POLAND, A FEW DAYS LATER--
-- A RED ARMY BASE NEAR THE BALTIC SEAPORT OF SZCZECIN...
SKARK!
FLWHAM!
BUDDABUDDA
POW!
AIEEE!
FREE MAGNETO
X-MEN
THE RITZ, PARIS--
...THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF A TERRORIST ASSAULT ON A MAJOR SOVIET MILITARY INSTALLATION OUTSIDE STETTIN, ON THE EAST GERMAN BORDER.
THE COST-- IN LIVES AND EQUIPMENT-- IS BELIEVED BY NATO INTELLIGENCE SOURCES TO BE HEAVY.
A MESSAGE IS REPUTED TO HAVE BEEN LEFT BY THE ATTACKERS, DEMANDING THAT THE ARCH-VILLAIN MAGNETO BE FREED.
IT IS SIGNED-- THE X-MEN.


NO! IT CANNOT BE!
SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT FORCES THROUGHOUT EASTERN EUROPE HAVE GONE ON A FULL WAR ALERT-- AND NATO SPOKESPERSONS HAVE INDICATED THE ALLIANCE WILL DO THE SAME.
IT IS NOT KNOWN, AS YET, WHETHER A REAL CONNECTION EXISTS BETWEEN THIS MESSAGE AND THE TRIAL CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN PARIS-- NOR WHAT EFFECT, IF ANY, IT WILL HAVE ON THE OUTCOME.
THIS IS NEAL CONAN...
M- MY CHEST-- MY HEART-- CANNOT BREATHE--!
PROFESSOR XAVIER, IT'S SCOTT SUMMERS, SIR, MAY I COME IN?
JUST... A MOMENT.
MUST... MASTER PAIN-- USE MY WILL, MY REMAINING... PSI-TALENT...
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
...TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE.
IT'S ONLY A MINOR EVENT, THANK HEAVEN -- BUT I'M FINDING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO DEAL EVEN WITH THEM!
MY TIME IS RUNNING OUT!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, PROFESSOR?
FINE, MY BOY. MERELY A TOUCH OF INDIGESTION.
BLAST IT, PROFESSOR-- WHY DON'T YOU TRUST ME ENOUGH TO TELL ME...
...YOU'RE DYING!
THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN PRETTY WILD-- I DON'T THINK PARIS WILL EVER BE THE SAME-- BUT EVERYTHING'S WORKED OUT OKAY. THE NEW MUTANTS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO Dr. MacTAGGERT'S PLACE ON MUIR ISLE.
THE X-MEN WILL STAY WITH YOU.
HAVE YOU HEARD THIS MORNING'S NEWS? THE X-MEN ARE BEING FRAMED, SCOTT-- AS IS MAGNETO! THE VILLAINS RESPONSIBLE MUST BE FOUND AND STOPPED!
I FIND IT A LITTLE HARD, PROFESSOR, TO RISK MY LIFE FOR A MAN WHO'S TRIED MORE THAN ONCE TO KILL ME.


I UNDERSTAND YOUR AMBIVALENCE, SCOTT, BUT I ALSO ASK THAT YOU RESPECT MY JUDGMENT. MAGNETO HAS VOWED TO ACCEPT ANY DECISION OF THE COURT.
EVEN A DEATH SENTENCE? DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE HE'LL LET HIMSELF BE EXECUTED?!
I PRAY IT WILL NOT COME TO THAT. FOR HIS PEOPLE-- FOR US, CYCLOPS, FOR MUTANTKIND-- HE PLACED HIS LIFE IN JEOPARDY. THE LEAST HE DESERVES IN RETURN IS A FAIR TRIAL.
IF NOT FOR MAGNETO, DO THIS FOR YOURSELVES. THE X-MEN ARE BEING BLAMED FOR THESE ATROCITIES. TO PROVE THE TEAM'S INNOCENCE...
...FIND THE TRUE CULPRITS.
"... THE LARGEST PROTEST SEEN THUS FAR FILLED THE ILE de la CITE THIS MORNING AS SIR JAMES JASPERS ROSE TO PRESENT THE PROSECUTION'S OPENING STATEMENT... "
DIE
AITOR
MORTE
MUTAN
... IT IS SAID, MY LORDS AND LADY, THIS IS A POLITICAL TRIAL, A MODERN DAY WITCH-HUNT-- THAT THE ACCUSED IS NO MORE THAN A MAN FIGHTING PASSIONATELY FOR A NOBLE CAUSE: THE LIBERATION OF HIS OPPRESSED PEOPLE. HE IS MOSES, WE ARE PHARAOH.
THIS IS SIMPLY NOT SO.
HE IS A CRIMINAL.
HE HAS KILLED. HE HAS ROBBED. HE HAS WANTONLY DESTROYED.
MORE THAN ONCE, HE HAS BROUGHT THE WORLD TO THE BRINK OF ARMAGEDDON!
AND WHAT OF THIS CAUSE HE PURPORTS TO TRIUMPH? WHERE IS THE OPPRESSION OF WHICH HE SO ELOQUENTLY SPEAKS?
I KNOW OF NO COUNTRY WHERE IT IS A CRIME MERELY TO BE A MUTANT. I HAVE SEEN NO DEATH CAMPS, HEARD NO REPORTS OF GENOCIDE. THROUGHOUT THE EARTH, THEY ARE TREATED NO BETTER, NO WORSE, THAN THEIR FELLOW HUMAN CITIZENS.
IF PREJUDICE EXISTS, THERE ARE MEANS WITHIN SOCIETY TO COMBAT IT. MAGNETO CHOSE TO PLACE HIMSELF ABOVE THE LAW-- AND THEREBY BEYOND THE PALE OF CIVILIZED CONDUCT. IF A DANGER EXISTS, IT COMES NOT FROM US...
...BUT FROM HIM!

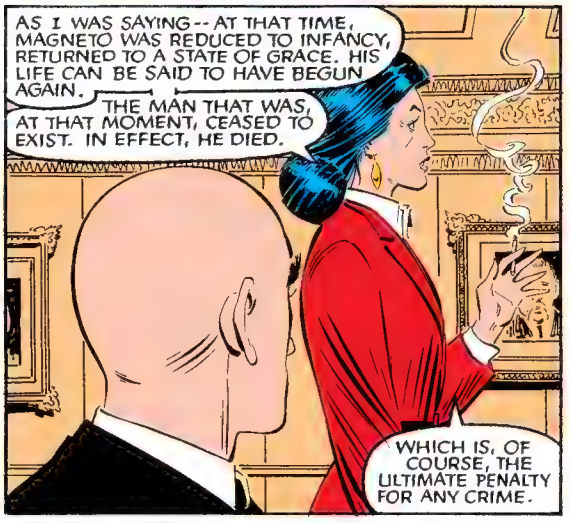

HOLZRUHE, WEST GERMANY--
-- HEADQUARTERS OF THE 173rd TACTICAL STRIKE WING, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE...
KYANNG!
KRAKOOM!!
FREE MAGNETO
...X-MEN...
"... POLICE AND THE GERDAMERIE TODAY SEALED OFF THE ILE de la CITE, AS PUBLIC ANGER OVER THE ONGOING SERIES OF TERRORIST ATTACKS CONTINUES TO GROW.
"IT'S HARDLY THE MOST AUSPICIOUS MOMENT FOR AMBASSADOR HALLER TO PRESENT HER CASE FOR THE DEFENSE..."
DIE MUTIES!
KILL HIM
TRAITOR

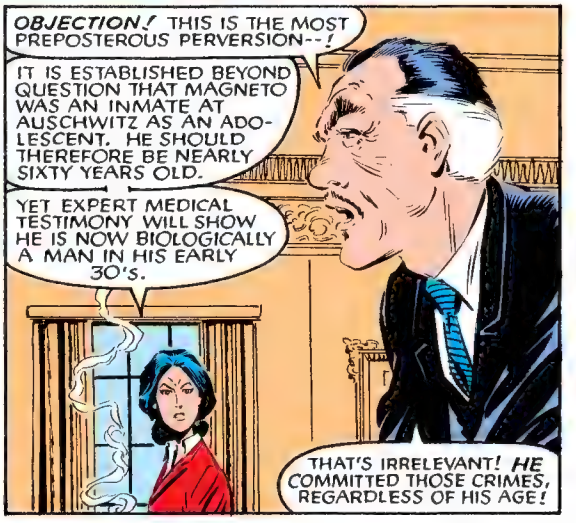

MY LORDS, MY LADY-- MY LEARNED FRIEND OPPOSITE WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE THIS CASE IS CLEAR-CUT, THE ISSUES BLACK AND WHITE. WOULD THAT WERE SO.
RECENT HISTORY, HOWEVER, IS FULL OF ACCUSED, AND ADMITTED TERRORISTS-- THIEVES AND MURDERERS--WHOM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY LATER ACCEPTED, EVEN WELCOMED AS STATESMEN.
SHOULD A PERSON WHO ACTS FOR A CAUSE BE JUDGED BY THE SAME STANDARD AS ONE WHO ACTS FROM GREED? AND IF THE CAUSE IS JUST, WHAT THEN OF THE DEEDS COMMITTED IN ITS NAME?

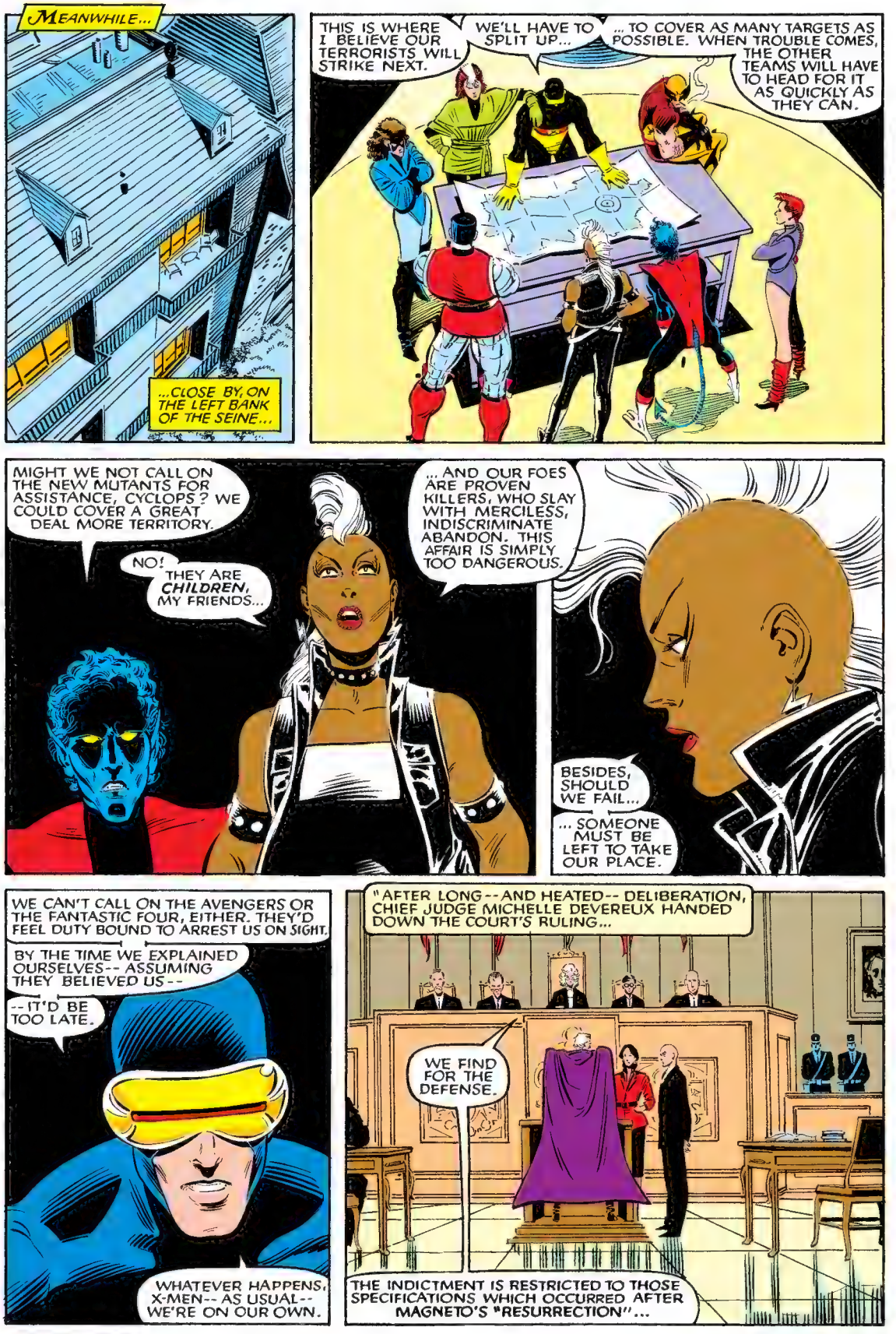
REGARDING THE SPECIFICS OF THE INDICTMENT, I MOVE THAT ALL COUNTS PERTAINING TO INCIDENTS THAT OCCURED PRIOR TO MAGNETO'S CONFRONTATION WITH *MUTANT ALPHA* AT THE UNITED NATIONS BE STRUCK
TRAITOR!

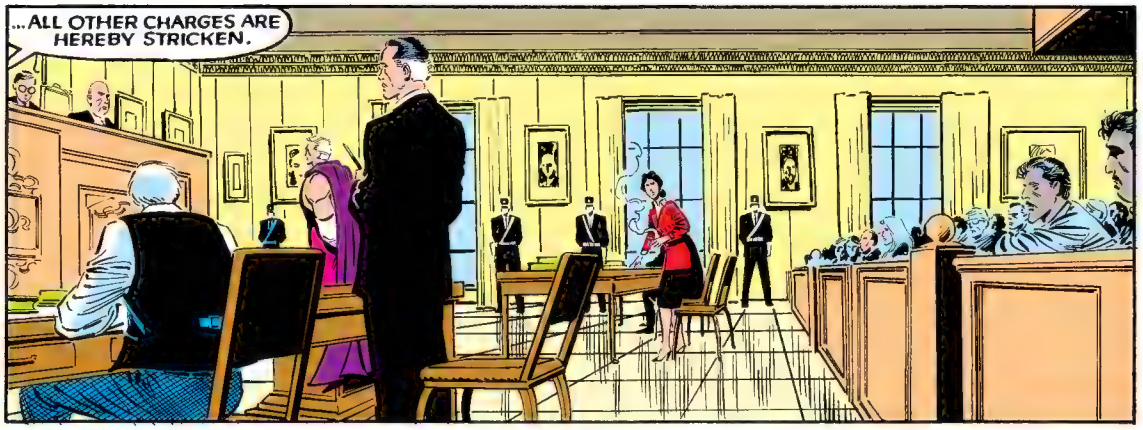
JEWESS, YOU'VE SOLD OUT YOUR OWN KIND! YOU DESERVE THE SAME FATE AS HIM!
GABY...?

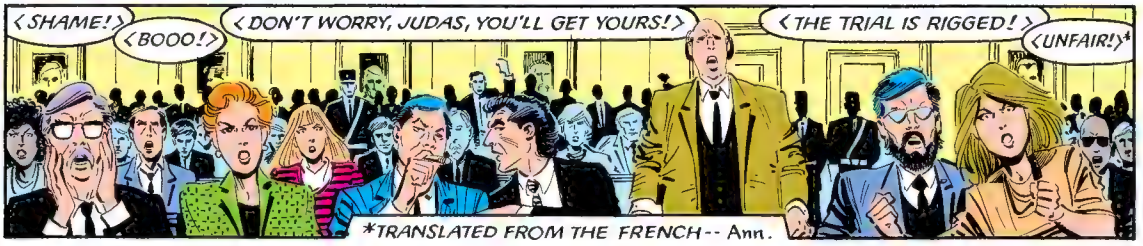
MERELY THINKING-- SADLY-- CHARLES: "*PLUS CA CHANGE, PLUS CA MEME CHOSE.*"
"THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME." SOME OLD HATREDS NEVER SEEM TO DIE.


AS I WAS SAYING-- AT THAT TIME, MAGNETO WAS REDUCED TO INFANCY, RETURNED TO A STATE OF GRACE. HIS LIFE CAN BE SAID TO HAVE BEGUN AGAIN.
THE MAN THAT WAS, AT THAT MOMENT, CEASED TO EXIST. IN EFFECT, HE DIED.
WHICH IS, OF COURSE, THE ULTIMATE PENALTY FOR ANY CRIME.

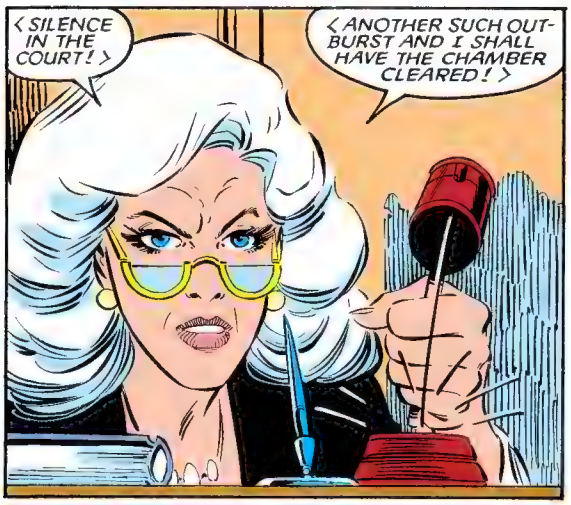

OBJECTION! THIS IS THE MOST PREPOSTEROUS PERVERSION--!
IT IS ESTABLISHED BEYOND QUESTION THAT MAGNETO WAS AN INMATE AT AUSCHWITZ AS AN ADOLESCENT. HE SHOULD THEREFORE BE NEARLY SIXTY YEARS OLD.
YET EXPERT MEDICAL TESTIMONY WILL SHOW HE IS NOW BIOLOGICALLY A MAN IN HIS EARLY 30'S.
THAT'S IRRELEVANT! ***HE*** COMMITTED THOSE CRIMES, REGARDLESS OF HIS AGE!


MEANWHILE...
...CLOSE BY, ON THE LEFT BANK OF THE SEINE...
THIS IS WHERE I BELIEVE OUR TERRORISTS WILL STRIKE NEXT.
WE'LL HAVE TO SPLIT UP...
... TO COVER AS MANY TARGETS AS POSSIBLE. WHEN TROUBLE COMES, THE OTHER TEAMS WILL HAVE TO HEAD FOR IT AS QUICKLY AS THEY CAN.
MIGHT WE NOT CALL ON THE NEW MUTANTS FOR ASSISTANCE, CYCLOPS? WE COULD COVER A GREAT DEAL MORE TERRITORY.
NO! THEY ARE CHILDREN, MY FRIENDS...
... AND OUR FOES ARE PROVEN KILLERS, WHO SLAY WITH MERCILESS, INDISCRIMINATE ABANDON. THIS AFFAIR IS SIMPLY TOO DANGEROUS.
BESIDES, SHOULD WE FAIL...
... SOMEONE MUST BE LEFT TO TAKE OUR PLACE.
WE CAN'T CALL ON THE AVENGERS OR THE FANTASTIC FOUR, EITHER. THEY'D FEEL DUTY BOUND TO ARREST US ON SIGHT.
BY THE TIME WE EXPLAINED OURSELVES-- ASSUMING THEY BELIEVED US--
--IT'D BE TOO LATE.
WHATEVER HAPPENS, X-MEN-- AS USUAL-- WE'RE ON OUR OWN.
"AFTER LONG--AND HEATED-- DELIBERATION, CHIEF JUDGE MICHELLE DEVEREUX HANDED DOWN THE COURT'S RULING...
WE FIND FOR THE DEFENSE.
THE INDICTMENT IS RESTRICTED TO THOSE SPECIFICATIONS WHICH OCCURRED AFTER MAGNETO'S "RESURRECTION"...

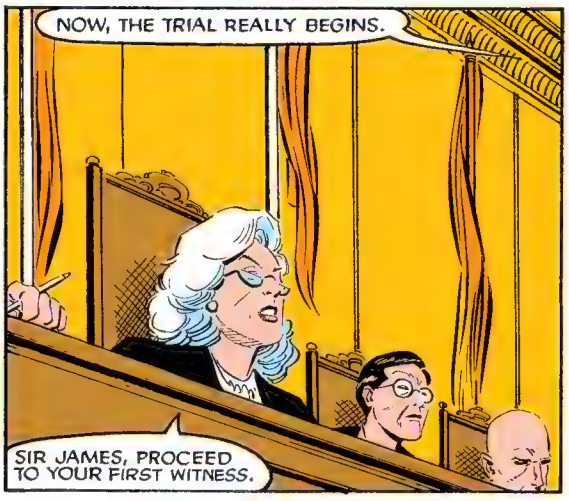




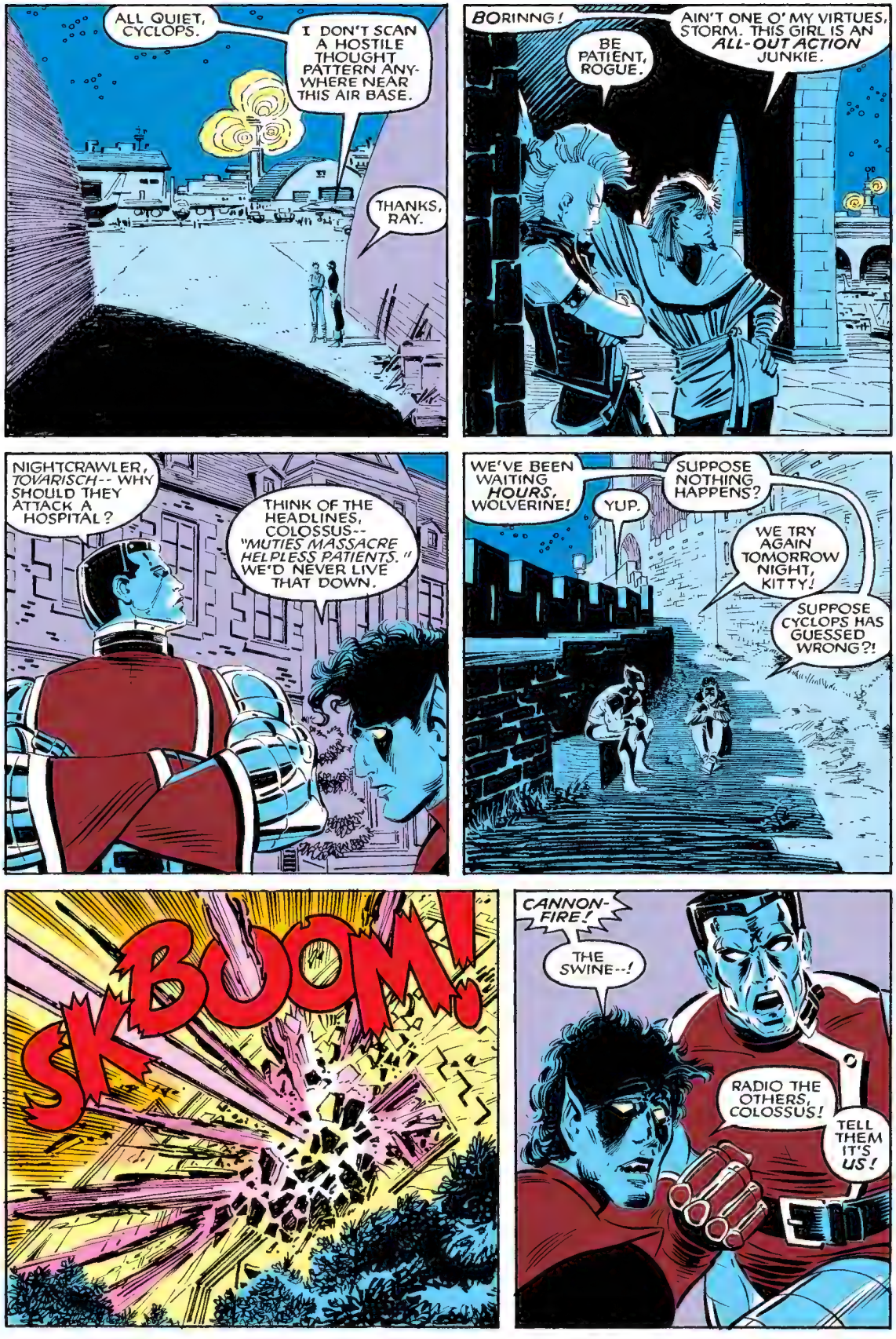
*TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH-- Ann.

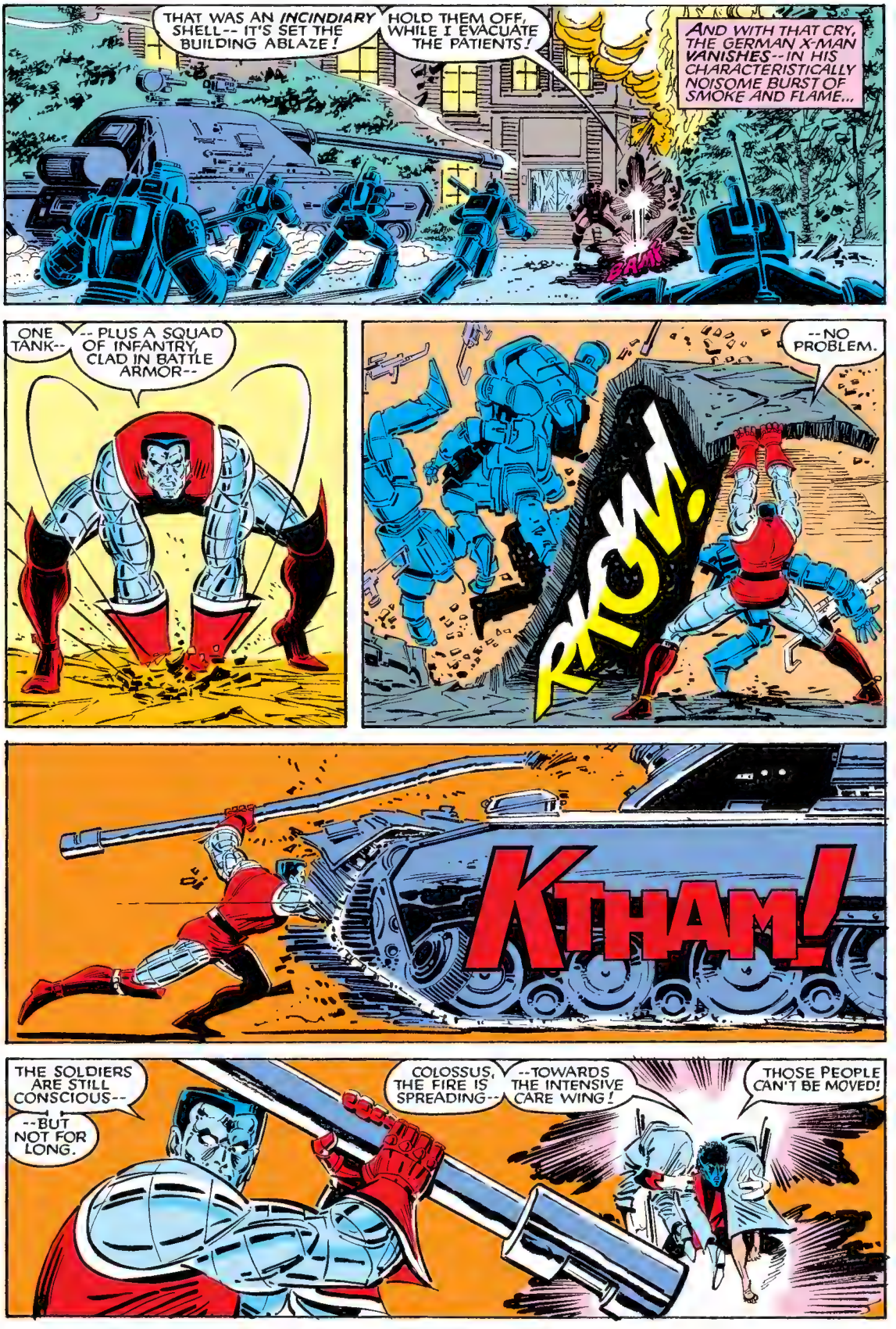


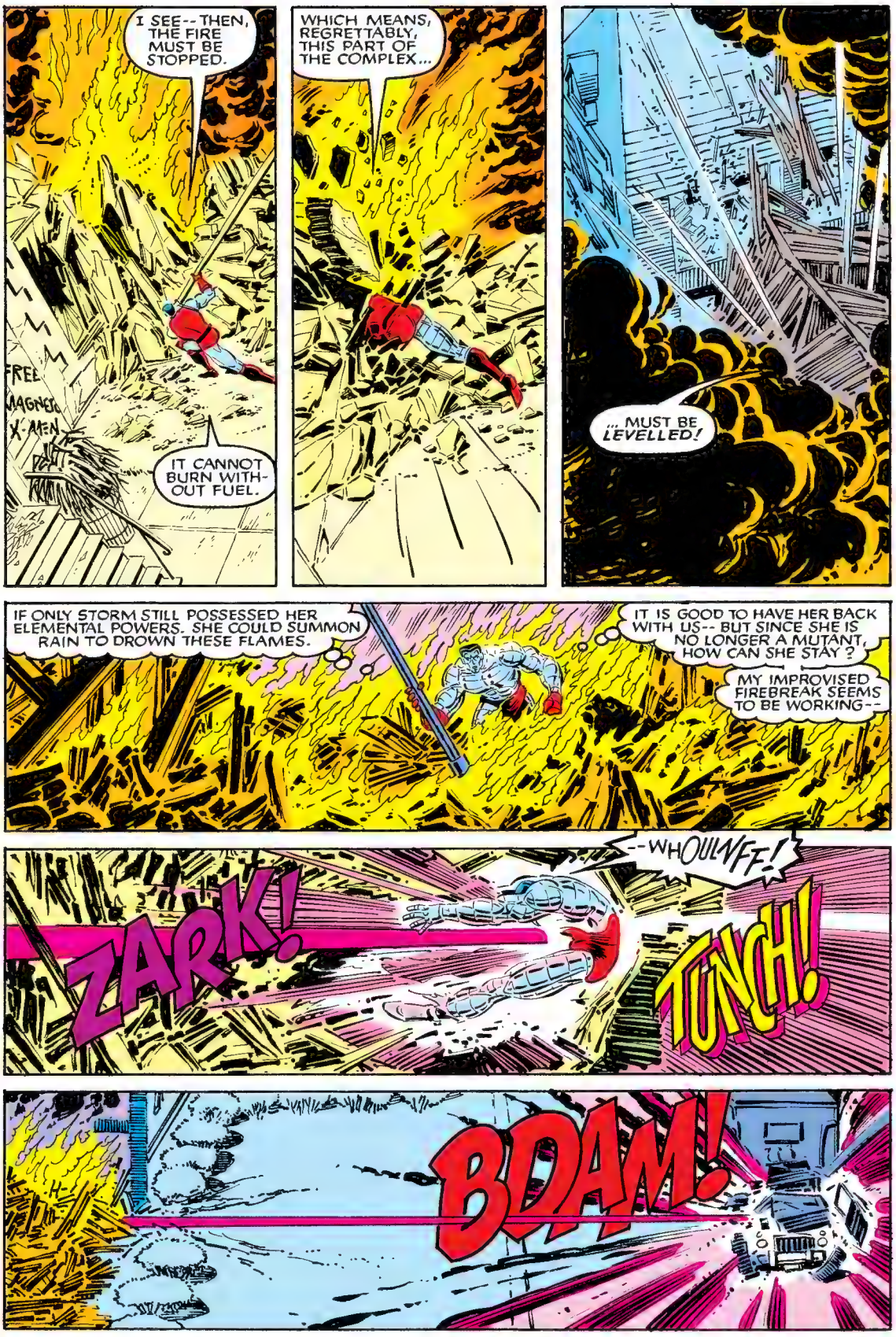
THE MOOD IS VERY UGLY. I FEEL AS IF ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN.
AT LEAST WE SEEM TO BE WINNING.
DON'T FOOL YOURSELF. THESE ARE JUST THE PRELIMINARIES. I EXPECTED TO DO WELL.

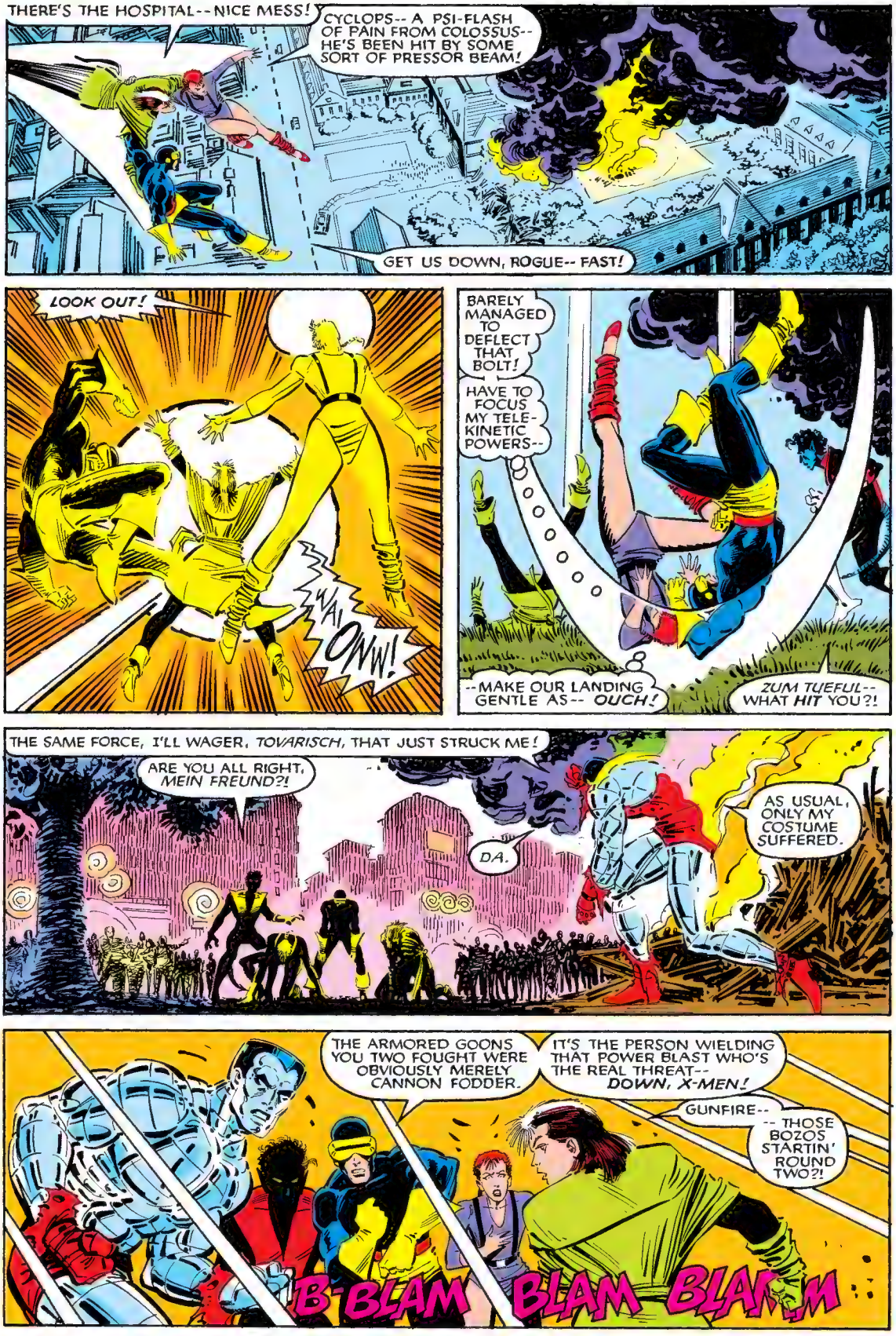


I SUMMON ADMIRAL GREGORI MIHAILOVITCH SUVOROV...
...COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE SOVIET NAVY'S STRATEGIC MISSILE SUBMARINE FORCE.

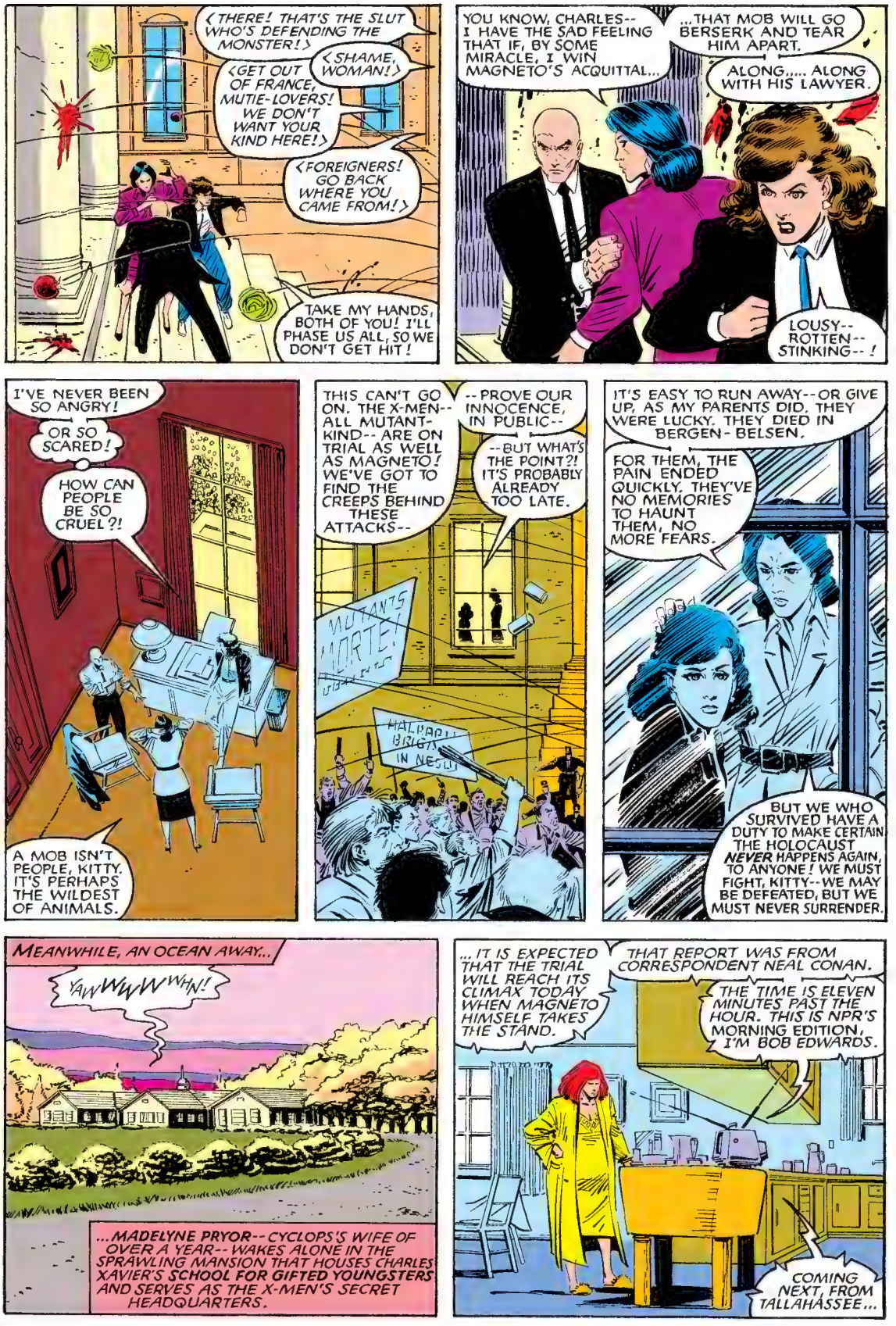

ALL QUIET, CYCLOPS.
I DON'T SCAN A HOSTILE THOUGHT PATTERN ANYWHERE NEAR THIS AIR BASE.
THANKS, RAY.
BORINNG!
BE PATIENT, ROGUE.
AIN'T ONE O' MY VIRTUES, STORM. THIS GIRL IS AN ALL-OUT ACTION JUNKIE.
NIGHTCRAWLER, TOVARISCH-- WHY SHOULD THEY ATTACK A HOSPITAL?
THINK OF THE HEADLINES, COLOSSUS-- "MUTIES MASSACRE HELPLESS PATIENTS." WE'D NEVER LIVE THAT DOWN.
WE'VE BEEN WAITING HOURS, WOLVERINE!
YUP.
SUPPOSE NOTHING HAPPENS?
WE TRY AGAIN TOMORROW NIGHT, KITTY!
SUPPOSE CYCLOPS HAS GUESSED WRONG?!
SKBOOM!
CANNON-FIRE!
THE SWINE--!
RADIO THE OTHERS, COLOSSUS!
TELL THEM IT'S US!


THAT WAS AN INCINDIARY SHELL-- IT'S SET THE BUILDING ABLAZE!
HOLD THEM OFF, WHILE I EVACUATE THE PATIENTS!
AND WITH THAT CRY, THE GERMAN X-MAN VANISHES--IN HIS CHARACTERISTICALLY NOISOME BURST OF SMOKE AND FLAME...
BAM
ONE TANK--
-- PLUS A SQUAD OF INFANTRY, CLAD IN BATTLE ARMOR--
--NO PROBLEM.
RIOW!
KTHAM!
THE SOLDIERS ARE STILL CONSCIOUS--
--BUT NOT FOR LONG.
COLOSSUS, THE FIRE IS SPREADING--
--TOWARDS THE INTENSIVE CARE WING!
THOSE PEOPLE CAN'T BE MOVED!

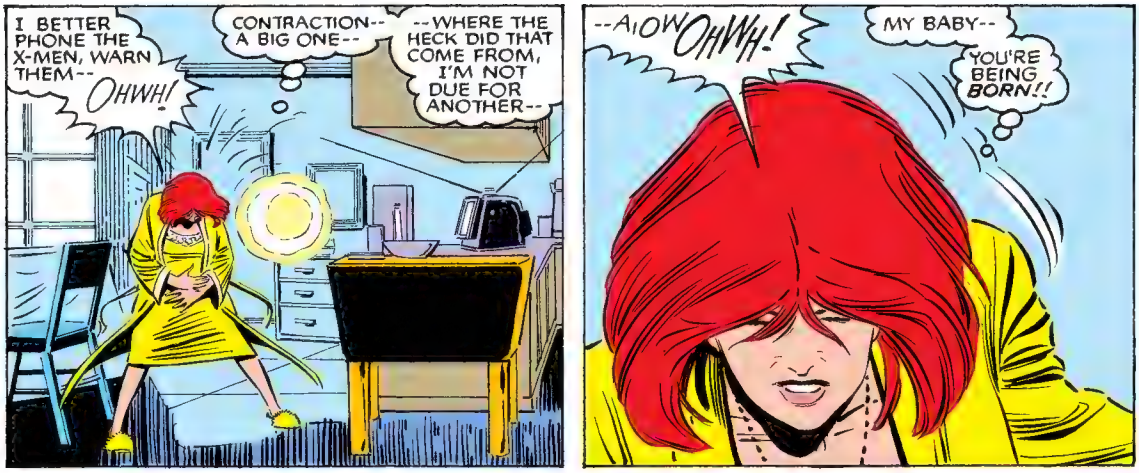

I SEE-- THEN, THE FIRE MUST BE STOPPED.
IT CANNOT BURN WITHOUT FUEL.
WHICH MEANS, REGRETTABLY, THIS PART OF THE COMPLEX...
...MUST BE LEVELLED!
IF ONLY STORM STILL POSSESSED HER ELEMENTAL POWERS. SHE COULD SUMMON RAIN TO DROWN THESE FLAMES.
IT IS GOOD TO HAVE HER BACK WITH US-- BUT SINCE SHE IS NO LONGER A MUTANT, HOW CAN SHE STAY?
MY IMPROVISED FIREBREAK SEEMS TO BE WORKING--
--WHOULVFF!
ZARK!
TUNCH!
BDAM!


THERE'S THE HOSPITAL--NICE MESS!
CYCLOPS-- A PSI-FLASH OF PAIN FROM COLOSSUS-- HE'S BEEN HIT BY SOME SORT OF PRESSOR BEAM!
GET US DOWN, ROGUE-- FAST!
LOOK OUT!
WAI
OWW!
BARELY MANAGED TO DEFLECT THAT BOLT!
HAVE TO FOCUS MY TELE-KINETIC POWERS--
--MAKE OUR LANDING GENTLE AS-- OUCH!
ZUM TUEFUL-- WHAT HIT YOU?!
THE SAME FORCE, I'LL WAGER, TOVARISCH, THAT JUST STRUCK ME!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MEIN FREUND?!
DA.
AS USUAL, ONLY MY COSTUME SUFFERED.
THE ARMORED GOONS YOU TWO FOUGHT WERE OBVIOUSLY MERELY CANNON FODDER.
IT'S THE PERSON WIELDING THAT POWER BLAST WHO'S THE REAL THREAT-- DOWN, X-MEN!
GUNFIRE--
-- THOSE BOZOS STARTIN' ROUND TWO?!
B-BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

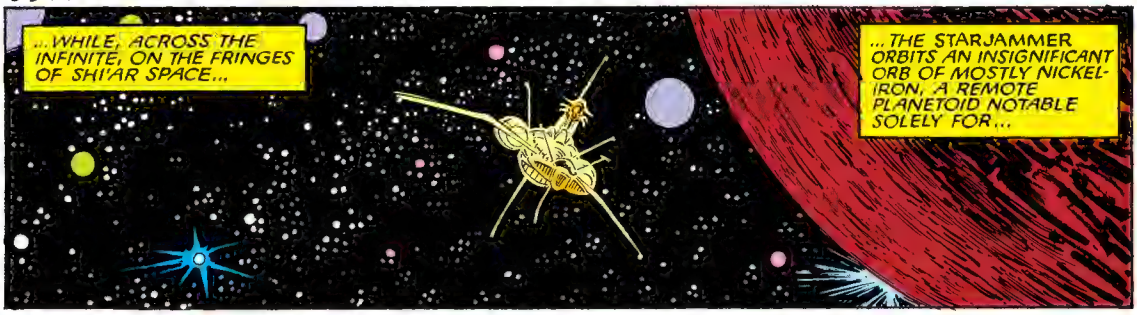
< THIS IS THE POLICE! >
< HANDS UP, MUTIES--YOU ARE UNDER ARREST! >
< THOSE WERE WARNING SHOTS--> <-- ONE FALSE MOVE AND WE SHOOT TO KILL! >
FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, GENTLEMEN, WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS.
BUT WHO'D EVER BELIEVE THE TRUTH TOLD BY A MUTANT?!
WE CAN'T DO ANY MORE HERE-- EXCEPT HURT OURSELVES.
RACHEL-- CLOUD EVERY-ONE'S PERCEPTIONS, TO MASK OUR ESCAPE.
WE COME TO HELP, WE SAVE LIVES, WE AVERT A DISASTER--
--AS WE ALWAYS DO--
FREE MAGNETO X-MEN
--AND IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.
WE STILL GET BLAMED.
SKDAM!
WE'RE MORE OUTCASTS THAN EVER!
"THANKS TO LAST NIGHT'S TERRORIST ASSAULT ON THE St. JUST MILITARY HOSPITAL NEAR PARIS...
The International Herald Tribune
X-MEN ATTACK HOSPITAL
"...TENSIONS AT THE TRIAL OF MAGNETO ARE RUNNING HIGHER THAN EVER.
"THIS IS NEAL CONAN..."

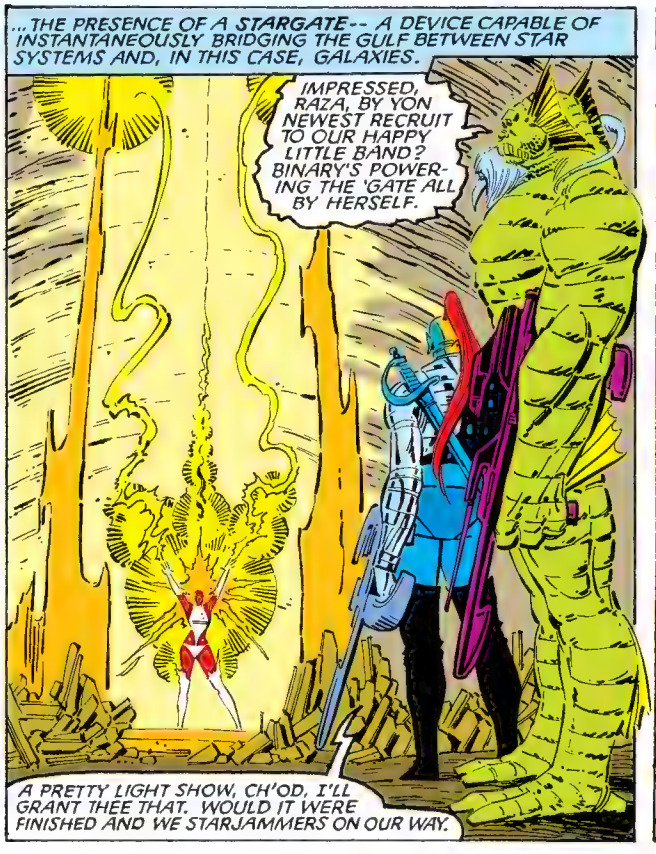

(THERE! THAT'S THE SLUT WHO'S DEFENDING THE MONSTER!)
(SHAME, WOMAN!)
(GET OUT OF FRANCE, MUTIE-LOVERS! WE DON'T WANT YOUR KIND HERE!)
(FOREIGNERS! GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM!)
TAKE MY HANDS, BOTH OF YOU! I'LL PHASE US ALL, SO WE DON'T GET HIT!
YOU KNOW, CHARLES-- I HAVE THE SAD FEELING THAT IF, BY SOME MIRACLE, I WIN MAGNETO'S ACQUITTAL...
...THAT MOB WILL GO BERSERK AND TEAR HIM APART.
ALONG..... ALONG WITH HIS LAWYER.
LOUSY-- ROTTEN-- STINKING--!
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO ANGRY!
OR SO SCARED!
HOW CAN PEOPLE BE SO CRUEL?!
A MOB ISN'T PEOPLE, KITTY. IT'S PERHAPS THE WILDEST OF ANIMALS.
THIS CAN'T GO ON. THE X-MEN-- ALL MUTANT-KIND-- ARE ON TRIAL AS WELL AS MAGNETO! WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE CREEPS BEHIND THESE ATTACKS--
--PROVE OUR INNOCENCE, IN PUBLIC--
--BUT WHAT'S THE POINT?! IT'S PROBABLY ALREADY TOO LATE.
MUTANTS MORTE!
IT'S EASY TO RUN AWAY--OR GIVE UP, AS MY PARENTS DID. THEY WERE LUCKY. THEY DIED IN BERGEN-BELSEN.
FOR THEM, THE PAIN ENDED QUICKLY. THEY'VE NO MEMORIES TO HAUNT THEM, NO MORE FEARS.
BUT WE WHO SURVIVED HAVE A DUTY TO MAKE CERTAIN THE HOLOCAUST *NEVER* HAPPENS AGAIN, TO ANYONE! WE MUST FIGHT, KITTY--WE MAY BE DEFEATED, BUT WE MUST NEVER SURRENDER.
MEANWHILE, AN OCEAN AWAY...
YAWWWWWHN!
...MADELYNE PRYOR-- CYCLOPS'S WIFE OF OVER A YEAR-- WAKES ALONE IN THE SPRAWLING MANSION THAT HOUSES CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS AND SERVES AS THE X-MEN'S SECRET HEADQUARTERS.
...IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE TRIAL WILL REACH ITS CLIMAX TODAY WHEN MAGNETO HIMSELF TAKES THE STAND.
THAT REPORT WAS FROM CORRESPONDENT NEAL CONAN.
THE TIME IS ELEVEN MINUTES PAST THE HOUR. THIS IS NPR'S MORNING EDITION, I'M BOB EDWARDS.
COMING NEXT, FROM TALLAHASSEE...

BAD NEWS, GETTING WORSE.
I FEEL SO OUT OF IT, SO HELPLESS! WHY HASN'T SCOTT CALLED?! HE AND THE X-MEN RETURNED FROM ASGARD OVER A WEEK AGO-- ARE THINGS SO TOUGH OVER THERE, IS HE SO BUSY?!!
OTHERS HAVE PHONED, ORORO, NIGHTCRAWLER-- AND KITTY ALMOST EVERY DAY, BLESS HER! DOESN'T SCOTT WANT TO TALK TO ME?! HAS HE FORGOTTEN I EXIST?!!
PROBABLY.
Sigh!
SARDINES
BABY, I LOVE YOUR FATHER DEARLY-- BUT SOMETIMES HE CAN BE A REAL JERK!
?!?
CORSAIR--
--SCOTT'S FATHER, LEADER OF THE STARJAMMERS--
--AND EMPRESS LILANDRA!?!
CHARLES XAVIER-- WHERE IS HE?!!
I KNOW HIS CONDITION, MADELYNE-- I FELT HIS DEATHPAIN, THROUGH THE RAPPORT WE SHARE-- THE ADVANCED MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY ABOARD STARJAMMER IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SAVE MY BELOVED!
HE'S SICK--?!
Oh, NO--THIS IS TERRIBLE-- HE ISN'T HERE! HE'S IN PARIS!
BLAST! THIS COMPLICATION, WE DO NOT NEED!
LILANDRA, WE'LL HAVE TO 'BEAM BACK AND RE-CALIBRATE THE STARGATE!
HATE TO RUN, MADELYNE--!
CORSAIR, WAIT! EXPLAIN YOUR-SELVES--!
CAN'T, HONEY-- NO TIME!
FTZAPT!

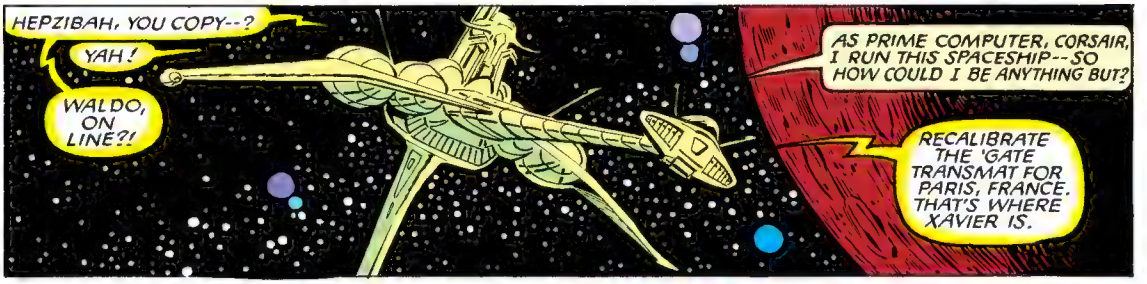

I BETTER PHONE THE X-MEN, WARN THEM--
OHWH!
CONTRACTION-- A BIG ONE--
--WHERE THE HECK DID THAT COME FROM, I'M NOT DUE FOR ANOTHER--
--AIOW OHWH!
MY BABY--
YOU'RE BEING BORN!!

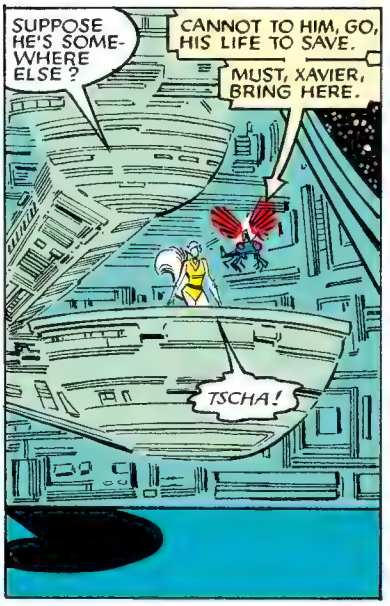
A THIRD, MASSIVE SPASM HAMMERS MADELYNE TO HER KNEES...


...WHILE, ACROSS THE INFINITE, ON THE FRINGES OF SHI'AR SPACE...
...THE STARJAMMER ORBITS AN INSIGNIFICANT ORB OF MOSTLY NICKEL-IRON, A REMOTE PLANETOID NOTABLE SOLELY FOR...

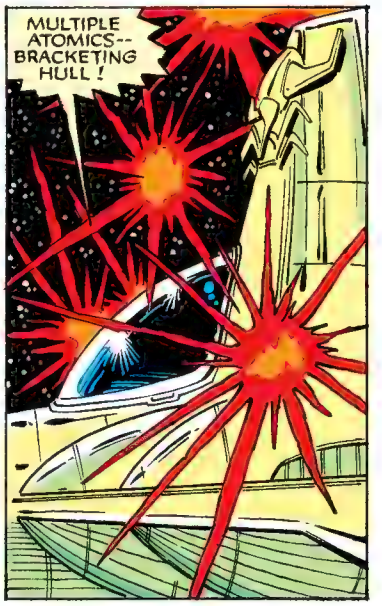

...THE PRESENCE OF A STARGATE-- A DEVICE CAPABLE OF INSTANTANEOUSLY BRIDGING THE GULF BETWEEN STAR SYSTEMS AND, IN THIS CASE, GALAXIES.
IMPRESSED, RAZA, BY YON NEWEST RECRUIT TO OUR HAPPY LITTLE BAND? BINARY'S POWERING THE 'GATE ALL BY HERSELF.
A PRETTY LIGHT SHOW, CH'OD, I'LL GRANT THEE THAT. WOULD IT WERE FINISHED AND WE STARJAMMERS ON OUR WAY.

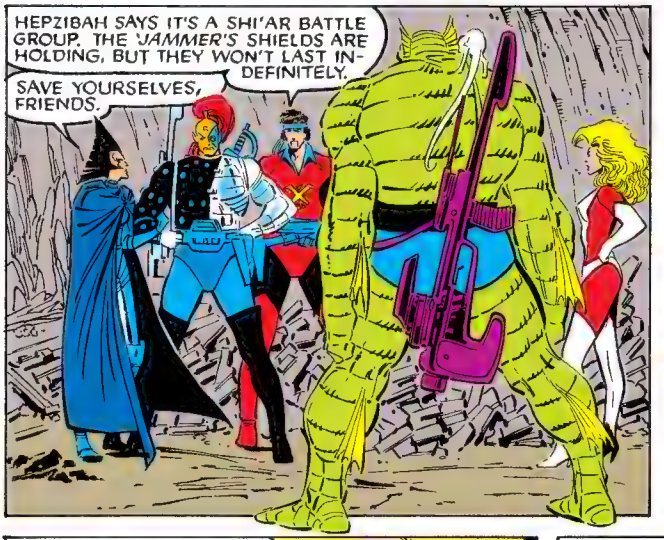
HEADS UP, YOU TWO.
OUR WANDERERS...
...ARE HOMEWARD BOUND.
NOT FOR LONG-- WE HIT A SNAG.
BINARY, MAINTAIN THE 'GATE. WE'RE BEAMING OUT AGAIN QUICK AS WE CAN.


HEPZIBAH, YOU COPY--?
YAH!
WALDO, ON LINE?!
AS PRIME COMPUTER, CORSAIR, I RUN THIS SPACESHIP--SO HOW COULD I BE ANYTHING BUT?
RECALIBRATE THE 'GATE TRANSMAT FOR PARIS, FRANCE. THAT'S WHERE XAVIER IS.


SUPPOSE HE'S SOMEWHERE ELSE?
CANNOT TO HIM, GO, HIS LIFE TO SAVE.
MUST, XAVIER, BRING HERE.
TSCHA!

FRIEND, XAVIER IS, HEPZIBAH.
WOULD AID--
OIEWRK!
EXPLOSIONS--!

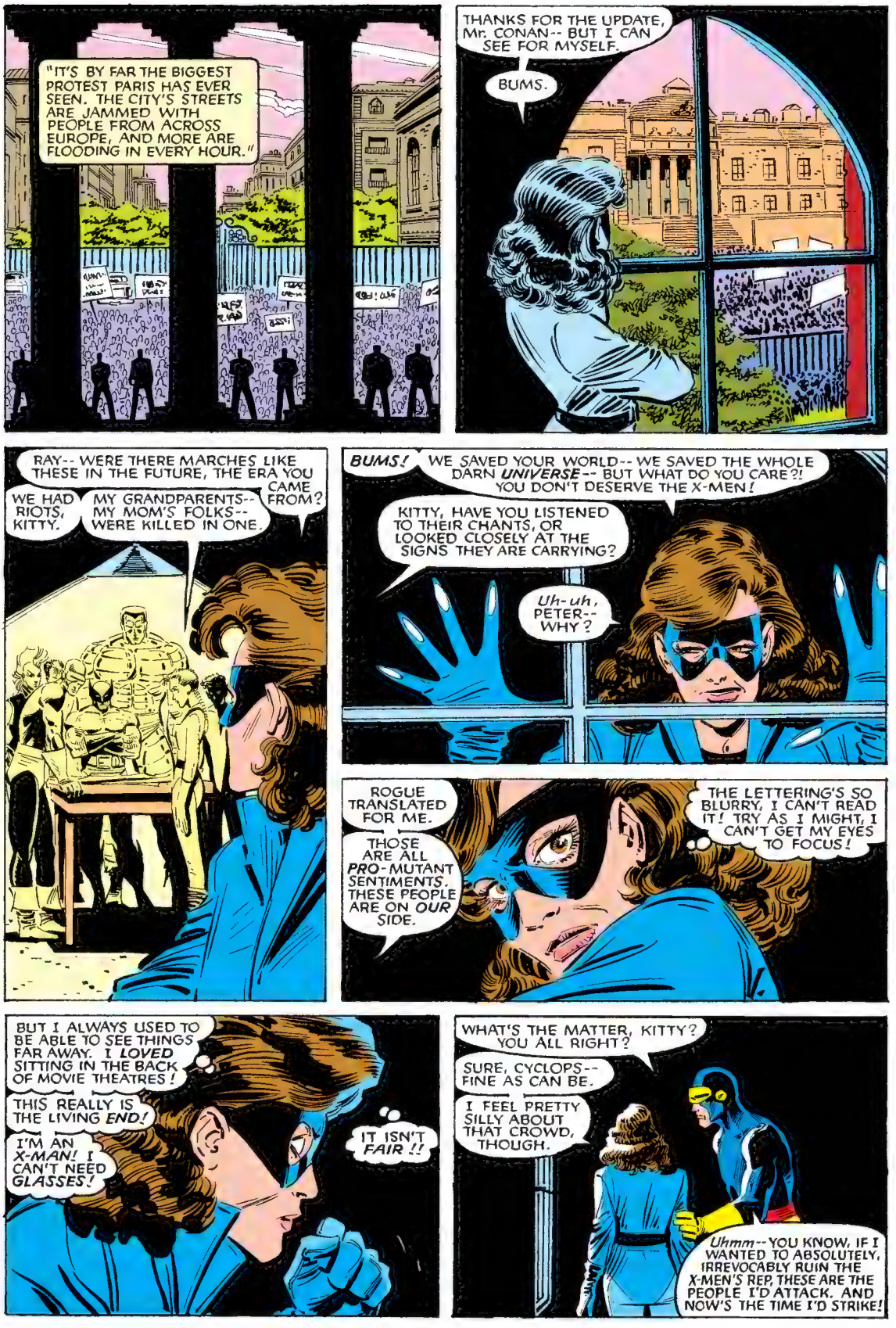

MULTIPLE ATOMICS--BRACKETING HULL!

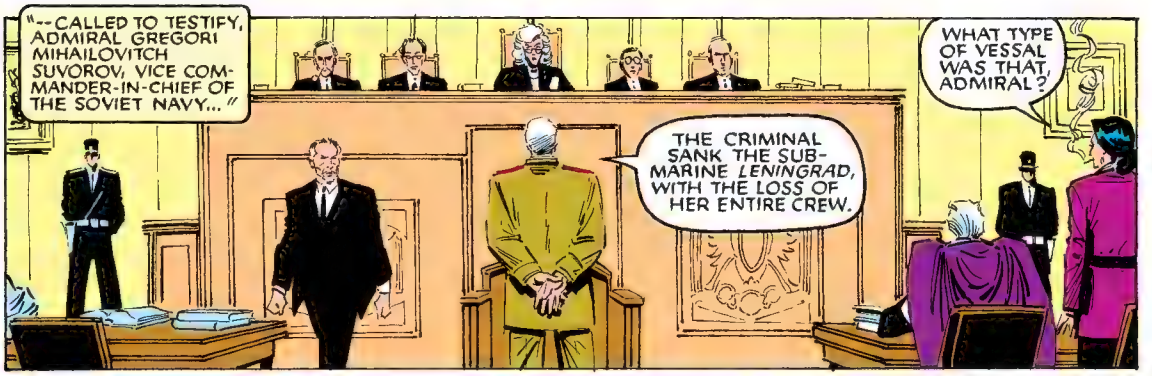

HEPZIBAH SAYS IT'S A SHI'AR BATTLE GROUP. THE JAMMER'S SHIELDS ARE HOLDING, BUT THEY WON'T LAST INDEFINITELY.
SAVE YOURSELVES, FRIENDS.

I ASK ONLY TO BE SENT TO EARTH, THAT I MAY STAND BY MY BELOVED'S SIDE AT HIS LIFE'S END.
IF WALDO CAN COME UP WITH THE RIGHT NUMBERS IN TIME, WE'LL SAVE XAVIER YET. IF NOT--
--THEN, EMPRESS, YOU GO YOUR WAY, WE'LL GO OURS.

BUT, CORSAIR, IF YOU GO BACK YOU MIGHT BE TRAPPED ON EARTH.
WORSE, SUPPOSE THE 'GATE COLLAPSES WHILE YOU'RE IN TRANSIT--?!

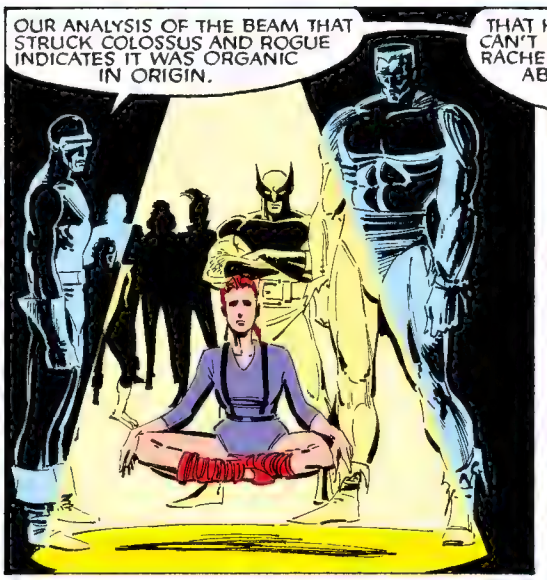
THAT, BINARY, IS A RISK...
...BOTH LILANDRA AND I CHOOSE TO TAKE.
THERE'S NO SENSE, THOUGH, CONDEMNING THE REST OF YOU IN THE BARGAIN. THE MOMENT SHIELD STRENGTH GOES CRITICAL, YOU FORGET ABOUT US, YOU ABANDON US--
YOU RUN!

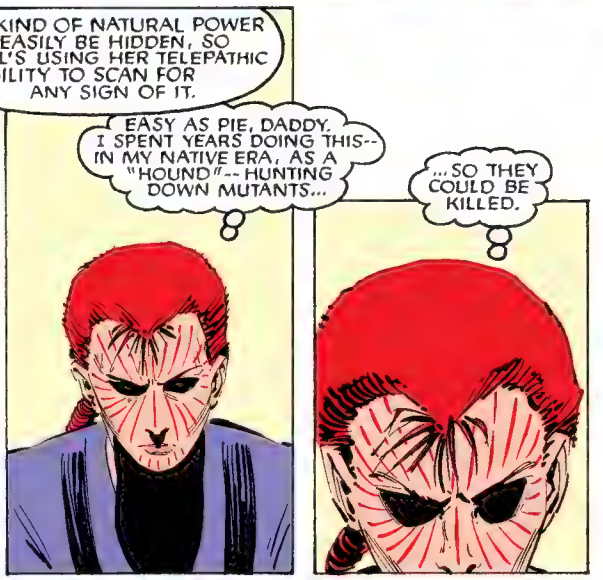

"IT'S BY FAR THE BIGGEST PROTEST PARIS HAS EVER SEEN. THE CITY'S STREETS ARE JAMMED WITH PEOPLE FROM ACROSS EUROPE, AND MORE ARE FLOODING IN EVERY HOUR."
THANKS FOR THE UPDATE, Mr. CONAN-- BUT I CAN SEE FOR MYSELF.
BUMS.
RAY-- WERE THERE MARCHES LIKE THESE IN THE FUTURE, THE ERA YOU CAME FROM?
WE HAD RIOTS, KITTY.
MY GRANDPARENTS-- MY MOM'S FOLKS-- WERE KILLED IN ONE.
BUMS!
WE SAVED YOUR WORLD-- WE SAVED THE WHOLE DARN UNIVERSE-- BUT WHAT DO YOU CARE?! YOU DON'T DESERVE THE X-MEN!
KITTY, HAVE YOU LISTENED TO THEIR CHANTS, OR LOOKED CLOSELY AT THE SIGNS THEY ARE CARRYING?
Uh-uh, PETER-- WHY?
ROGUE TRANSLATED FOR ME.
THOSE ARE ALL PRO-MUTANT SENTIMENTS. THESE PEOPLE ARE ON OUR SIDE.
THE LETTERING'S SO BLURRY, I CAN'T READ IT! TRY AS I MIGHT, I CAN'T GET MY EYES TO FOCUS!
BUT I ALWAYS USED TO BE ABLE TO SEE THINGS FAR AWAY. I LOVED SITTING IN THE BACK OF MOVIE THEATRES!
THIS REALLY IS THE LIVING END!
I'M AN X-MAN! I CAN'T NEED GLASSES!
IT ISN'T FAIR !!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KITTY? YOU ALL RIGHT?
SURE, CYCLOPS-- FINE AS CAN BE.
I FEEL PRETTY SILLY ABOUT THAT CROWD, THOUGH.
Uhmm-- YOU KNOW, IF I WANTED TO ABSOLUTELY, IRREVOCABLY RUIN THE X-MEN'S REP, THESE ARE THE PEOPLE I'D ATTACK. AND NOW'S THE TIME I'D STRIKE!


"--CALLED TO TESTIFY, ADMIRAL GREGORI MIHAILOVITCH SUVOROV, VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE SOVIET NAVY..."
THE CRIMINAL SANK THE SUBMARINE *LENINGRAD*, WITH THE LOSS OF HER ENTIRE CREW.
WHAT TYPE OF VESSAL WAS THAT, ADMIRAL?

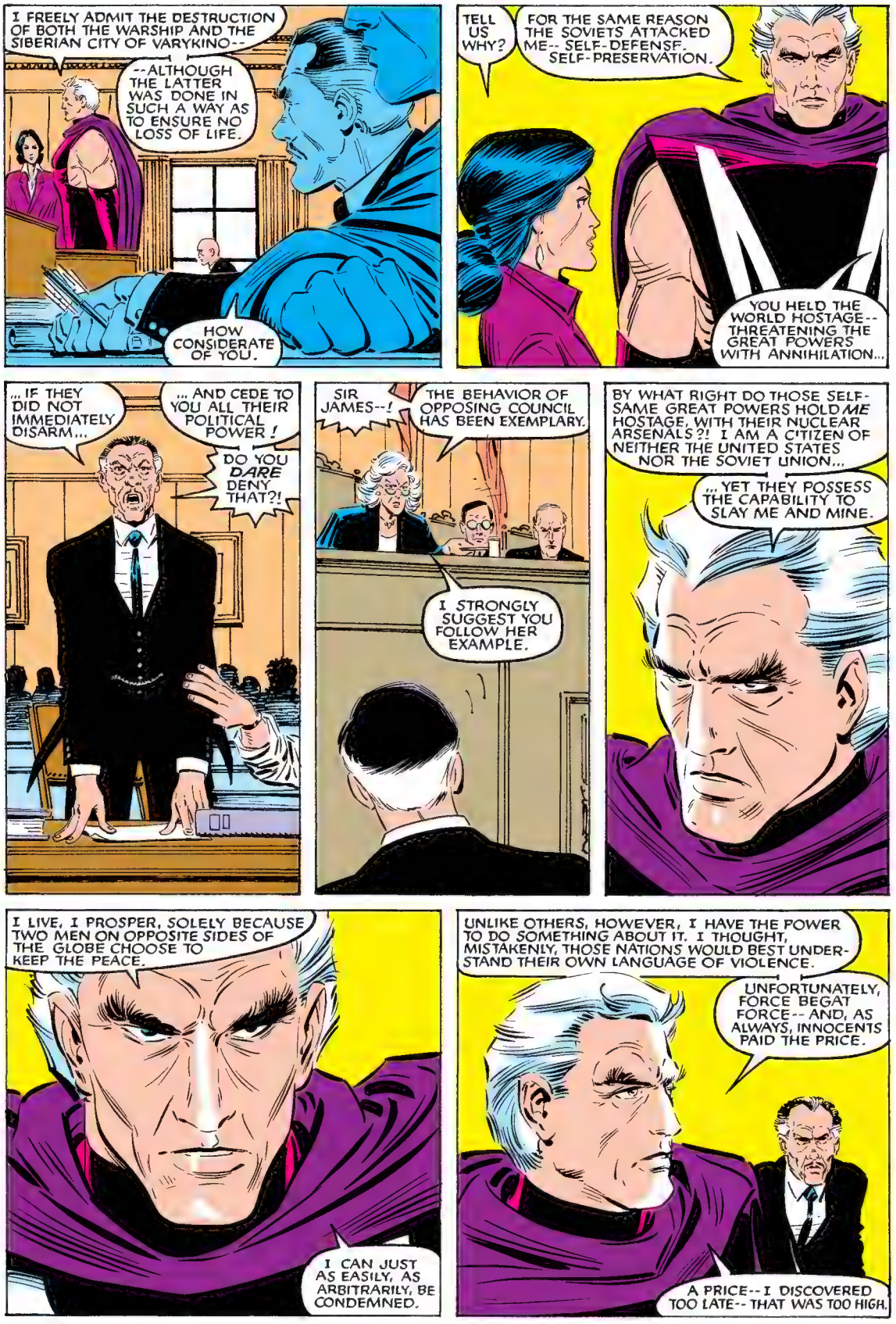
A DELTA-II CLASS FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINE.
ARMED WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS?
YES.
AND HAD NOT *LENINGRAD* JUST ***FIRED*** FOUR OF THOSE MISSILES AT THE ACCUSED'S ISLAND HOME...

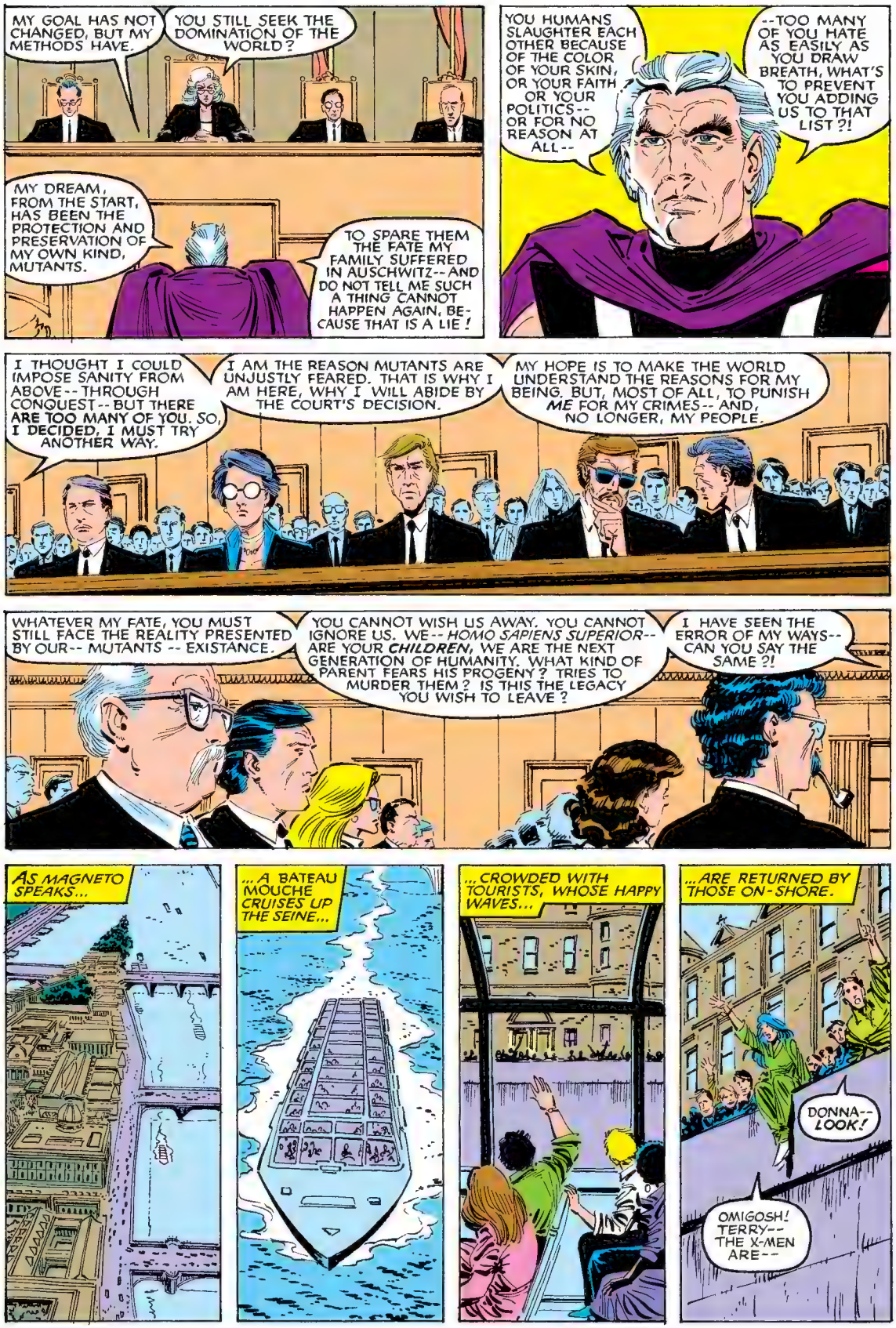
WE WERE PROVOKED! IT WAS OUR RIGHT, AS A SOVEREIGN NATION, TO RESPOND SO!
MAGNETO THREATENED US, THE SOVIET UNION ACTED IN *SELF-DEFENSE!*
...IN A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO KILL HIM?!


OUR ANALYSIS OF THE BEAM THAT STRUCK COLOSSUS AND ROGUE INDICATES IT WAS ORGANIC IN ORIGIN.

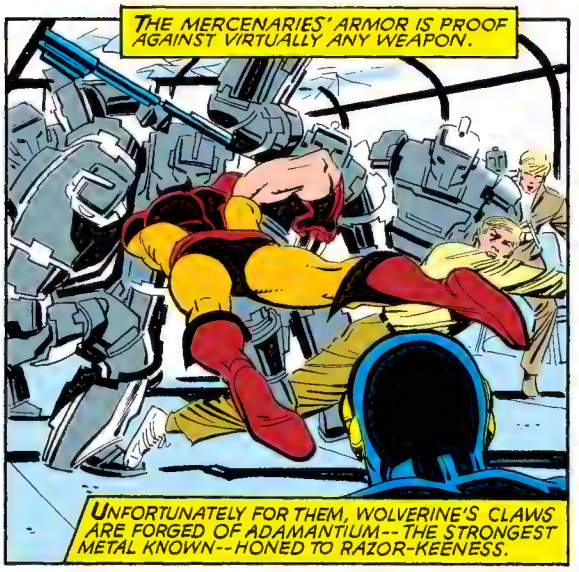

THAT KIND OF NATURAL POWER CAN'T EASILY BE HIDDEN, SO RACHEL'S USING HER TELEPATHIC ABILITY TO SCAN FOR ANY SIGN OF IT.
EASY AS PIE, DADDY. I SPENT YEARS DOING THIS--IN MY NATIVE ERA, AS A "HOUND"--HUNTING DOWN MUTANTS...
...SO THEY COULD BE KILLED.

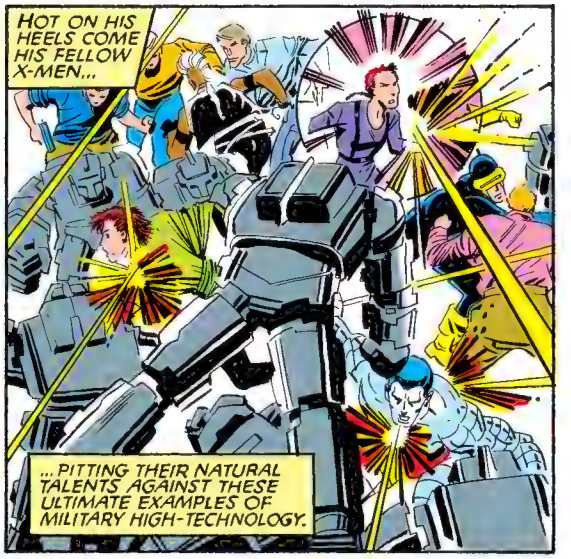
I SWORE ON YOUR AND MOM'S GRAVES NEVER TO DO THIS AGAIN...
...BUT, WITH SO MUCH AT STAKE, HOW CAN I REFUSE?!
BINGO, X-MEN.
I'VE GOT 'EM!

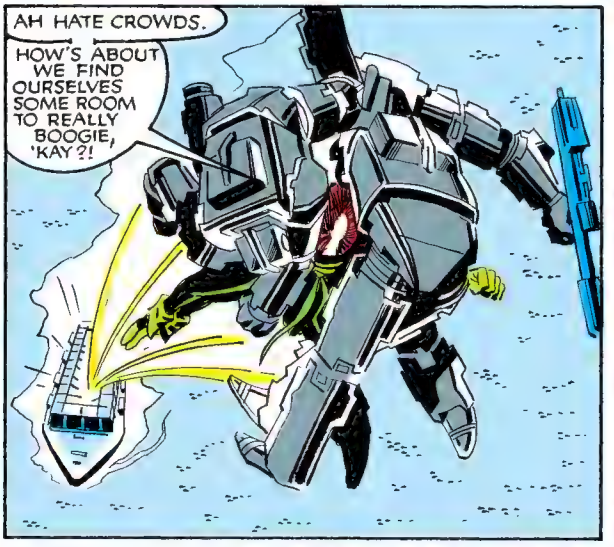

I FREELY ADMIT THE DESTRUCTION OF BOTH THE WARSHIP AND THE SIBERIAN CITY OF VARYKINO--
--ALTHOUGH THE LATTER WAS DONE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ENSURE NO LOSS OF LIFE.
HOW CONSIDERATE OF YOU.
TELL US WHY?
FOR THE SAME REASON THE SOVIETS ATTACKED ME-- SELF-DEFENSE. SELF-PRESERVATION.
YOU HELD THE WORLD HOSTAGE-- THREATENING THE GREAT POWERS WITH ANNIHILATION...
... IF THEY DID NOT IMMEDIATELY DISARM...
... AND CEDE TO YOU ALL THEIR POLITICAL POWER!
DO YOU DARE DENY THAT?!
SIR JAMES--!
THE BEHAVIOR OF OPPOSING COUNCIL HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY.
I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU FOLLOW HER EXAMPLE.
BY WHAT RIGHT DO THOSE SELF-SAME GREAT POWERS HOLD ME HOSTAGE, WITH THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENALS?! I AM A CITIZEN OF NEITHER THE UNITED STATES NOR THE SOVIET UNION...
... YET THEY POSSESS THE CAPABILITY TO SLAY ME AND MINE.
I LIVE, I PROSPER, SOLELY BECAUSE TWO MEN ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE GLOBE CHOOSE TO KEEP THE PEACE.
I CAN JUST AS EASILY, AS ARBITRARILY, BE CONDEMNED.
UNLIKE OTHERS, HOWEVER, I HAVE THE POWER TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. I THOUGHT, MISTAKENLY, THOSE NATIONS WOULD BEST UNDERSTAND THEIR OWN LANGUAGE OF VIOLENCE.
UNFORTUNATELY, FORCE BEGAT FORCE-- AND, AS ALWAYS, INNOCENTS PAID THE PRICE.
A PRICE--I DISCOVERED TOO LATE-- THAT WAS TOO HIGH.


MY GOAL HAS NOT CHANGED, BUT MY METHODS HAVE.
YOU STILL SEEK THE DOMINATION OF THE WORLD?
MY DREAM, FROM THE START, HAS BEEN THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF MY OWN KIND, MUTANTS.
TO SPARE THEM THE FATE MY FAMILY SUFFERED IN AUSCHWITZ-- AND DO NOT TELL ME SUCH A THING CANNOT HAPPEN AGAIN, BECAUSE THAT IS A LIE!
YOU HUMANS SLAUGHTER EACH OTHER BECAUSE OF THE COLOR OF YOUR SKIN, OR YOUR FAITH OR YOUR POLITICS-- OR FOR NO REASON AT ALL--
--TOO MANY OF YOU HATE AS EASILY AS YOU DRAW BREATH, WHAT'S TO PREVENT YOU ADDING US TO THAT LIST?!
I THOUGHT I COULD IMPOSE SANITY FROM ABOVE-- THROUGH CONQUEST-- BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY OF YOU. SO, I DECIDED, I MUST TRY ANOTHER WAY.
I AM THE REASON MUTANTS ARE UNJUSTLY FEARED. THAT IS WHY I AM HERE, WHY I WILL ABIDE BY THE COURT'S DECISION.
MY HOPE IS TO MAKE THE WORLD UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR MY BEING. BUT, MOST OF ALL, TO PUNISH ME FOR MY CRIMES-- AND, NO LONGER, MY PEOPLE.
WHATEVER MY FATE, YOU MUST STILL FACE THE REALITY PRESENTED BY OUR-- MUTANTS -- EXISTANCE.
YOU CANNOT WISH US AWAY. YOU CANNOT IGNORE US. WE-- HOMO SAPIENS SUPERIOR-- ARE YOUR CHILDREN, WE ARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF HUMANITY. WHAT KIND OF PARENT FEARS HIS PROGENY? TRIES TO MURDER THEM? IS THIS THE LEGACY YOU WISH TO LEAVE?
I HAVE SEEN THE ERROR OF MY WAYS-- CAN YOU SAY THE SAME?!
AS MAGNETO SPEAKS...
...A BATEAU MOUCHE CRUISES UP THE SEINE...
...CROWDED WITH TOURISTS, WHOSE HAPPY WAVES...
...ARE RETURNED BY THOSE ON-SHORE.
DONNA-- LOOK!
OMIGOSH! TERRY-- THE X-MEN ARE--

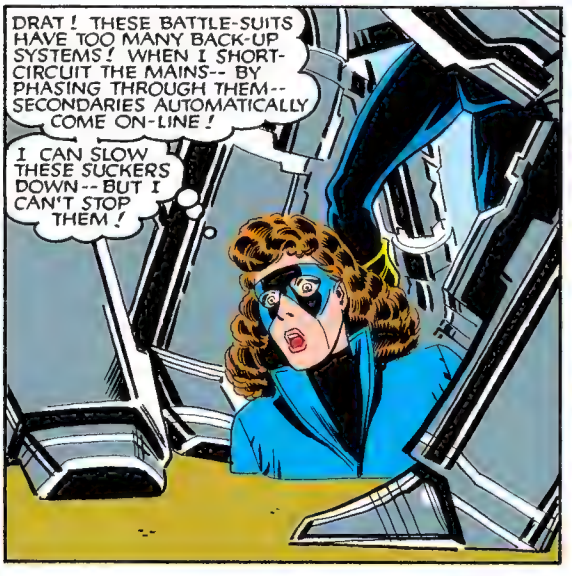
"--ATTACKING THE BOAT!"
I HOPE, COMRADES...
...WE ARE NOT MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE.
DON'T THINK SO, BIG GUY.
STAY BEHIND US, MY FRIENDS!
LET ROGUE AND ME DEFLECT THEIR FIRE!
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, FELLA--!
AH JUST BOUGHT THIS OUTFIT! AH AIN'T IN THE MOOD TO SEE IT SHOT TO PIECES!
BUDDABUDDABUDDA
PAM BAM
POW ZANG!
COLOSSUS-- FASTBALL SPECIAL!
I WANT TO SEE HOW WELL THESE CREEPS TAKE THEIR OWN MEDICINE!

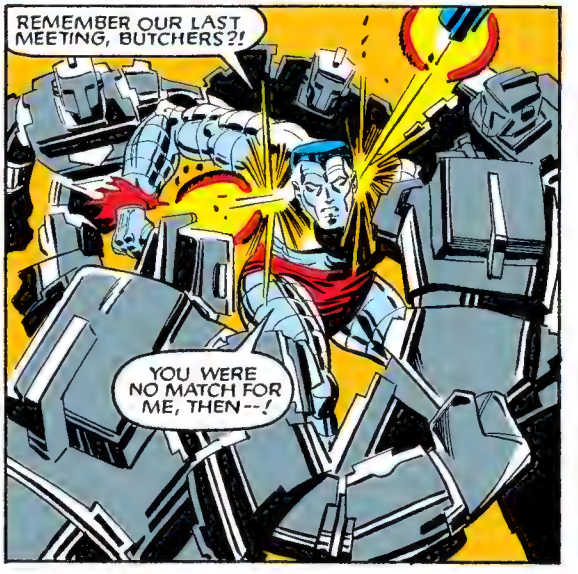

THE MERCENARIES' ARMOR IS PROOF AGAINST VIRTUALLY ANY WEAPON.
UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM, WOLVERINE'S CLAWS ARE FORGED OF ADAMANTIUM--THE STRONGEST METAL KNOWN--HONED TO RAZOR-KEENESS.

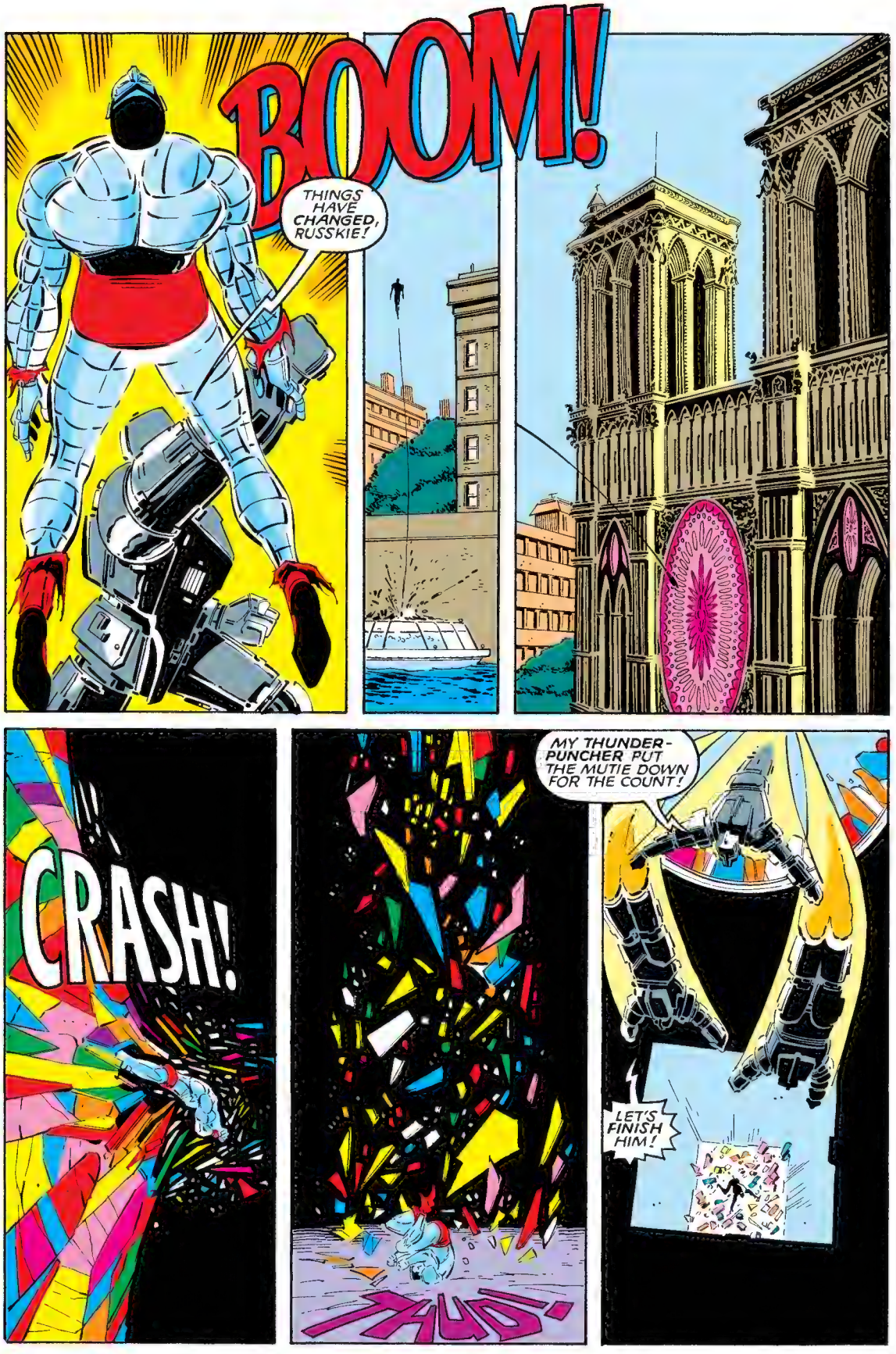

HOT ON HIS HEELS COME HIS FELLOW X-MEN...
...PITTING THEIR NATURAL TALENTS AGAINST THESE ULTIMATE EXAMPLES OF MILITARY HIGH-TECHNOLOGY.

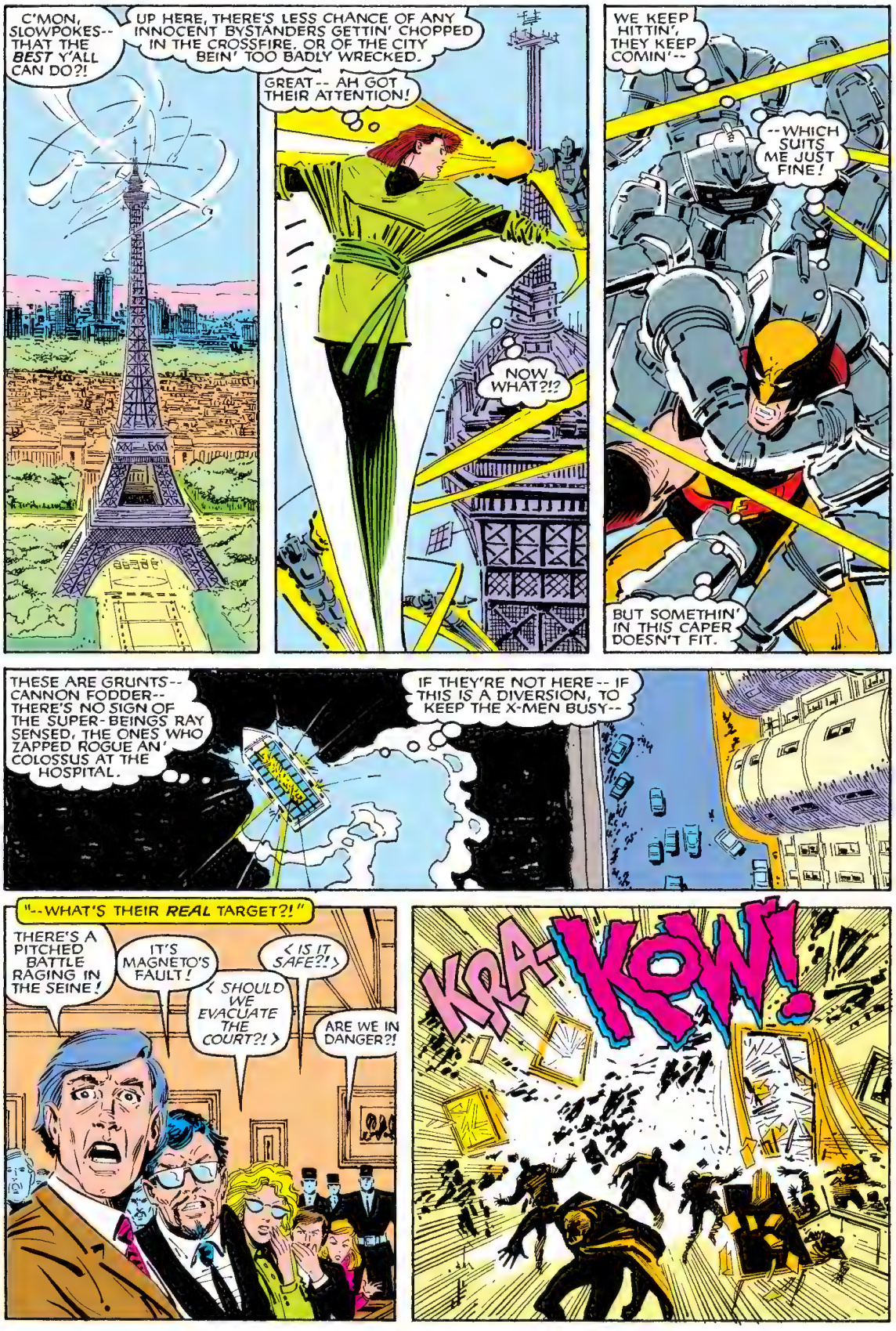

AH HATE CROWDS.
HOW'S ABOUT WE FIND OURSELVES SOME ROOM TO REALLY BOOGIE, 'KAY?!

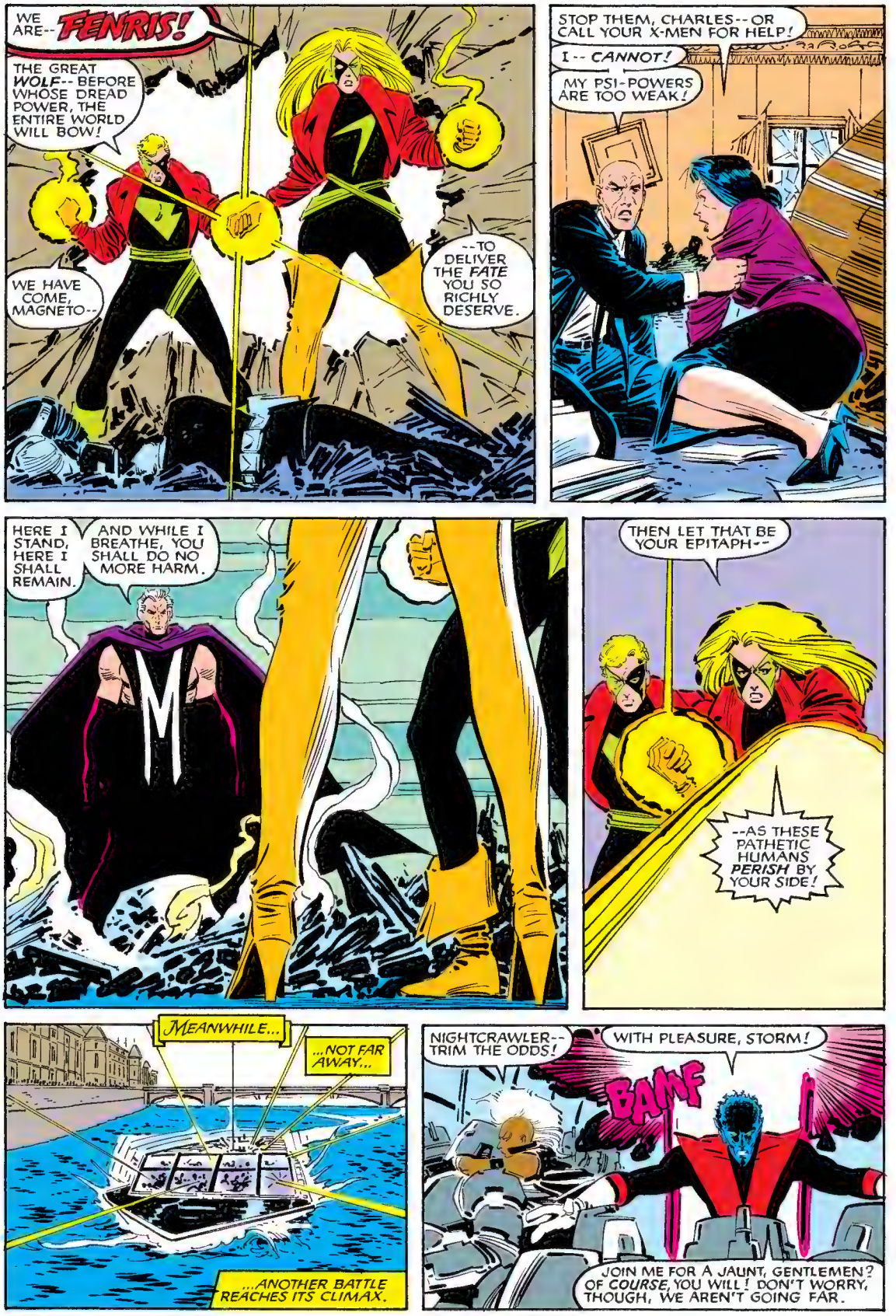
WE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO STRIKE AS WE DID.
ANY DELAY WOULD HAVE BEEN CATA-STROPHIC.
BUT, TO THE PEOPLE ON-SHORE, IT MUST APPEAR AS IF THE X-MEN ATTACKED A BOATLOAD OF DEFENSELESS TOURISTS. SO--EVEN IF WE WIN, WE'LL STILL LOSE.


DRAT! THESE BATTLE-SUITS HAVE TOO MANY BACK-UP SYSTEMS! WHEN I SHORT-CIRCUIT THE MAINS--BY PHASING THROUGH THEM--SECONDARIES AUTOMATICALLY COME ON-LINE!
I CAN SLOW THESE SUCKERS DOWN--BUT I CAN'T STOP THEM!

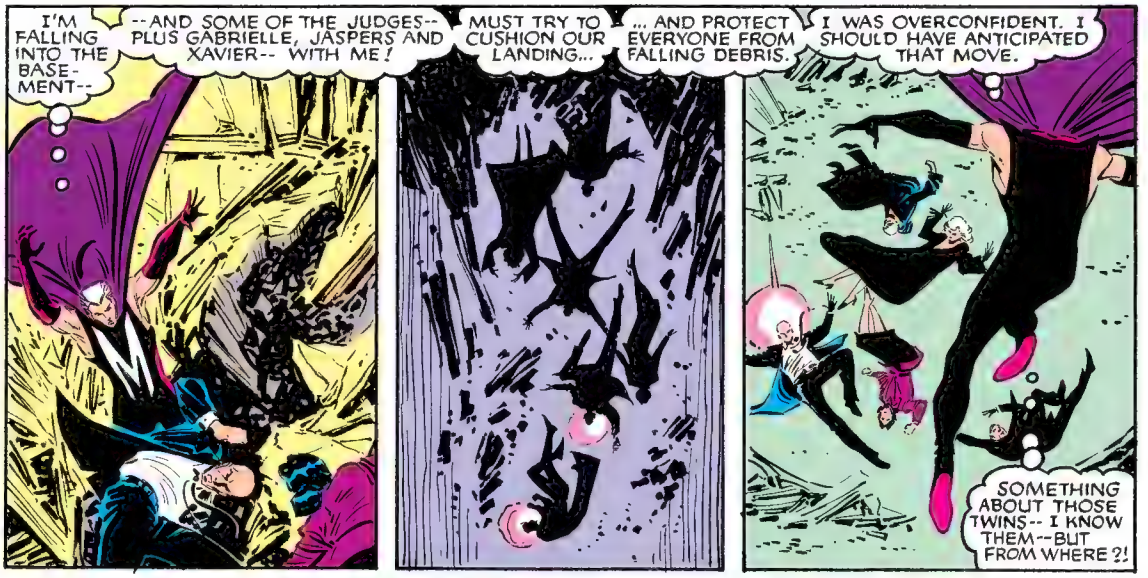

REMEMBER OUR LAST MEETING, BUTCHERS?!
YOU WERE NO MATCH FOR ME, THEN--!

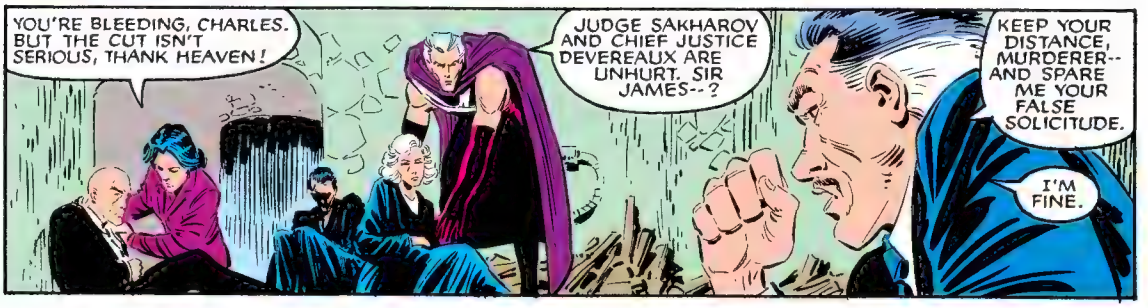

BOOM!
THINGS HAVE CHANGED, RUSSKIE!
CRASH!
MY THUNDER-PUNCHER PUT THE MUTIE DOWN FOR THE COUNT!
LET'S FINISH HIM!
THUD!


C'MON, SLOWPOKES-- THAT THE BEST Y'ALL CAN DO?!
UP HERE, THERE'S LESS CHANCE OF ANY INNOCENT BYSTANDERS GETTIN' CHOPPED IN THE CROSSFIRE. OR OF THE CITY BEIN' TOO BADLY WRECKED.
GREAT -- AH GOT THEIR ATTENTION!
NOW WHAT?!?
WE KEEP HITTIN', THEY KEEP COMIN'--
--WHICH SUITS ME JUST FINE!
BUT SOMETHIN' IN THIS CAPER DOESN'T FIT.
THESE ARE GRUNTS-- CANNON FODDER-- THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE SUPER-BEINGS RAY SENSED, THE ONES WHO ZAPPED ROGUE AN' COLOSSUS AT THE HOSPITAL.
IF THEY'RE NOT HERE -- IF THIS IS A DIVERSION, TO KEEP THE X-MEN BUSY--
"--WHAT'S THEIR REAL TARGET?!"
THERE'S A PITCHED BATTLE RAGING IN THE SEINE!
IT'S MAGNETO'S FAULT!
< SHOULD WE EVACUATE THE COURT?! >
< IS IT SAFE?! >
ARE WE IN DANGER?!
KRA-KOW!

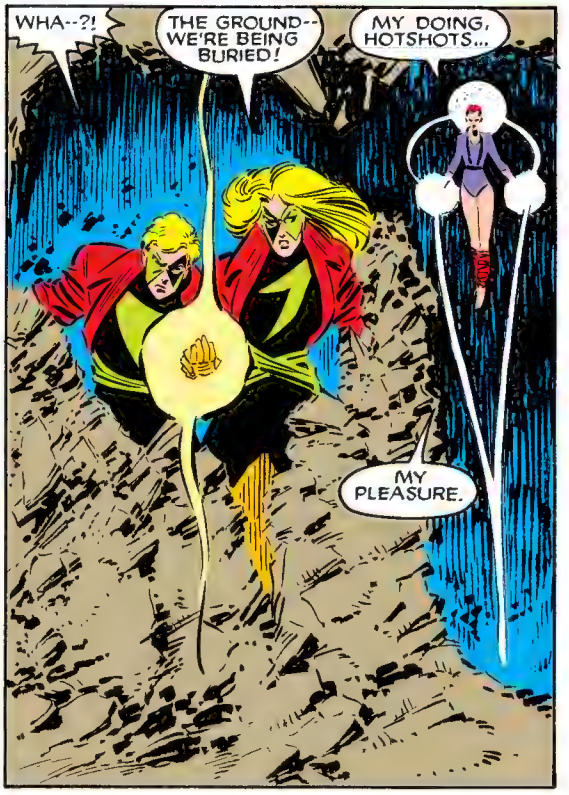

WE ARE-- FENRIS!
THE GREAT WOLF-- BEFORE WHOSE DREAD POWER, THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL BOW!
WE HAVE COME, MAGNETO--
--TO DELIVER THE FATE YOU SO RICHLY DESERVE.
STOP THEM, CHARLES--OR CALL YOUR X-MEN FOR HELP!
I-- CANNOT!
MY PSI-POWERS ARE TOO WEAK!
HERE I STAND, HERE I SHALL REMAIN.
AND WHILE I BREATHE, YOU SHALL DO NO MORE HARM.
THEN LET THAT BE YOUR EPITAPH--
--AS THESE PATHETIC HUMANS PERISH BY YOUR SIDE!
MEANWHILE...
...NOT FAR AWAY...
...ANOTHER BATTLE REACHES ITS CLIMAX.
NIGHTCRAWLER-- TRIM THE ODDS!
WITH PLEASURE, STORM!
BAMF
JOIN ME FOR A JAUNT, GENTLEMEN? OF COURSE, YOU WILL! DON'T WORRY, THOUGH, WE AREN'T GOING FAR.

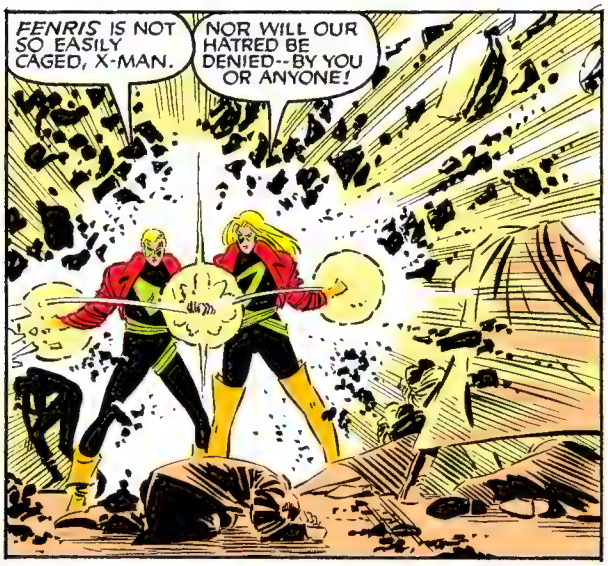
ENJOY YOUR SWIM, MEINE HERREN!
BAMF
I DUNNO, RAY-- THIS IS WAY TOO EASY-- HOLY COW?!
X-MEN-- LOOK! THE PALACE OF JUSTICE--!
WE'VE BEEN SUCKERED!
FOR TOO MANY YEARS, SWINE, THE HUMILIATION AND DEFEAT SUFFERED BY OUR BELOVED FATHER AT YOUR HANDS HAS GONE UNAVENGED!
TODAY, AT LONG LAST, YOU SHALL PAY!
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT, WHO DO THEY MEAN?!
A FUTILE THREAT, YOUNGSTERS-- CONSIDERING YOUR ENERGY BEAMS ARE UNABLE TO PENE-TRATE MY MAGNETIC SHIELD.
SEE, JASPERS?! MAGNETO'S RISKING HIS LIFE TO SAFEGUARD OURS-- HARDLY THE ACT OF A VILLAIN.
IT PROVES NOTHING-- ALL HE'S DOING IS SAVING HIS OWN SKIN!
AND NOT DOING TOO FINE A JOB OF IT, EITHER!
FOOLISH OLD MAN-- THERE'S MANY A WAY...
...TO SKIN THE PROVERBIAL CAT!
THE FLOOR--?!!
CHDAM!


I'M FALLING INTO THE BASE-MENT--
--AND SOME OF THE JUDGES-- PLUS GABRIELLE, JASPERS AND XAVIER-- WITH ME!
MUST TRY TO CUSHION OUR LANDING...
... AND PROTECT EVERYONE FROM FALLING DEBRIS.
I WAS OVERCONFIDENT. I SHOULD HAVE ANTICIPATED THAT MOVE.
SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE TWINS-- I KNOW THEM--BUT FROM WHERE?!


YOU'RE BLEEDING, CHARLES. BUT THE CUT ISN'T SERIOUS, THANK HEAVEN!
JUDGE SAKHAROV AND CHIEF JUSTICE DEVEREAUX ARE UNHURT. SIR JAMES--?
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, MURDERER-- AND SPARE ME YOUR FALSE SOLICITUDE.
I'M FINE.

THERE'S NO ESCAPE FOR YOU THIS WAY, OLD MAN-- OR ANY OTHER!
YOUR FATE-- AND BALDY'S AND THE JEWESS'S-- IS SEALED!
WHY THE THREE OF US?!
THE TWINS' POWER EVIDENTLY WORKS SOLELY WHEN THEY'RE IN PHYSICAL CONTACT--
--THE BOY PROJECTS FORCE, HIS SISTER RAW POWER, DIS-INTEGRATING WHAT-EVER IT TOUCHES.


WHA--?!
THE GROUND-- WE'RE BEING BURIED!
MY DOING, HOTSHOTS...
MY PLEASURE.

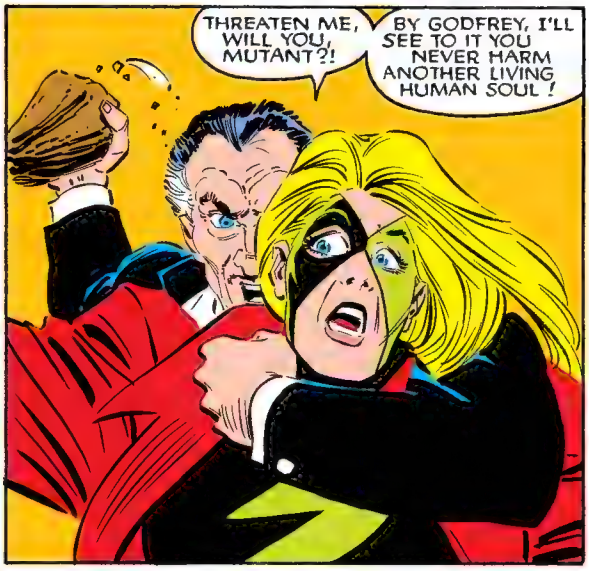

FENRIS IS NOT SO EASILY CAGED, X-MAN.
NOR WILL OUR HATRED BE DENIED--BY YOU OR ANYONE!

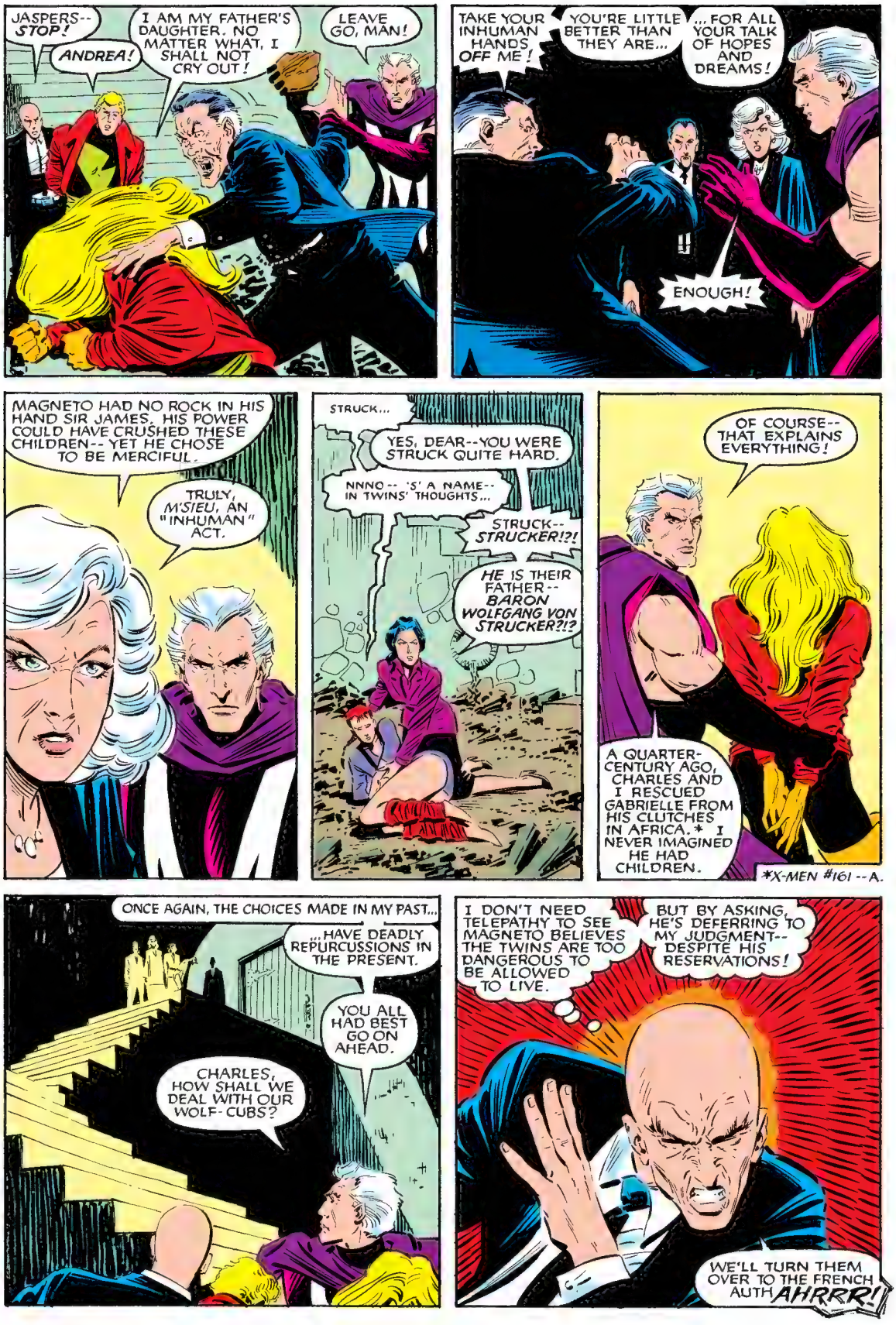
YIELD--OR I FRY THE HUMAN TO ASHES!
I THINK I CAN NAIL HER IN TIME--
BUT SUPPOSE I'M WRONG. I CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE.
OKAY, BLONDIE--YOU WIN.

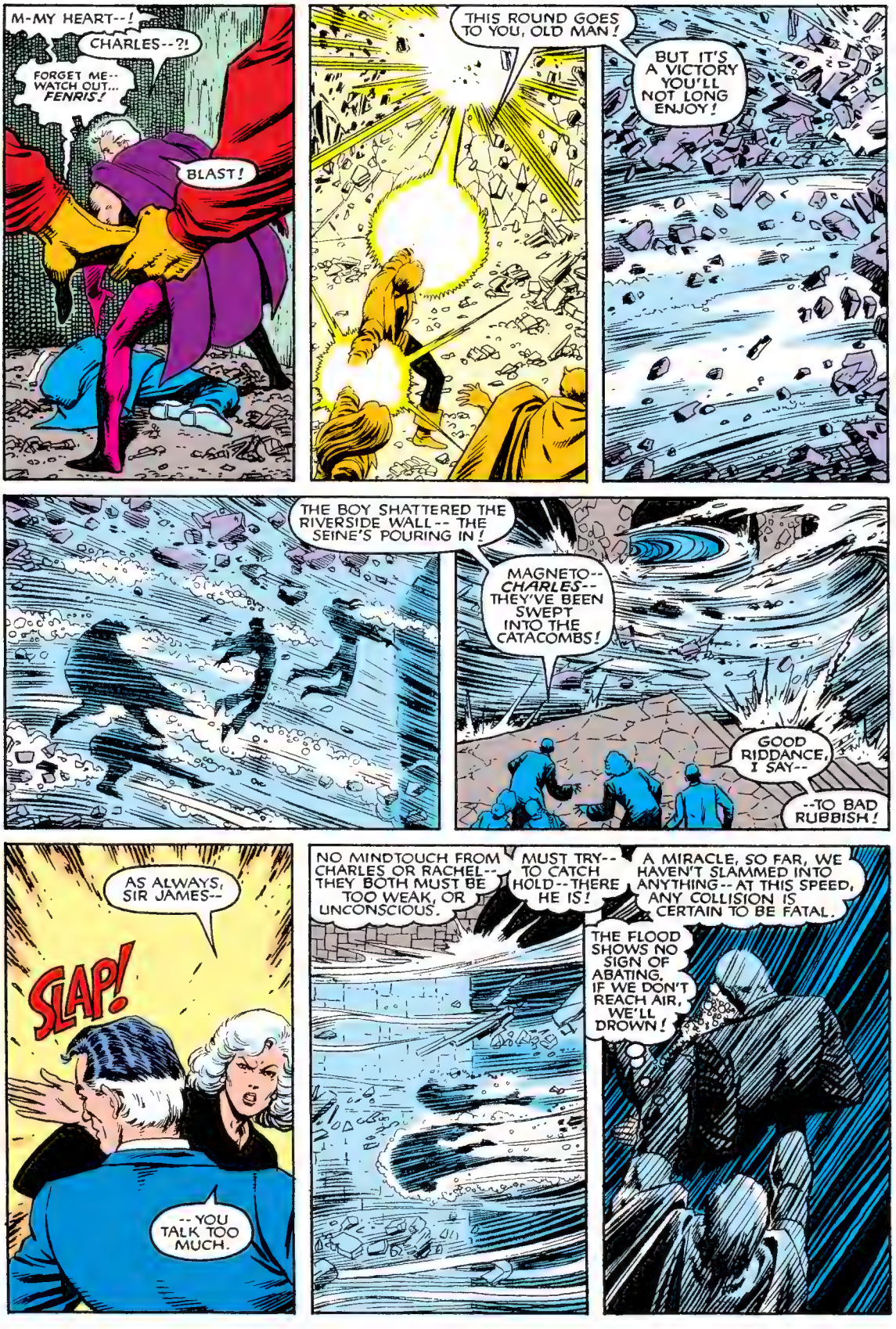
WE ALWAYS DO.
SKK!

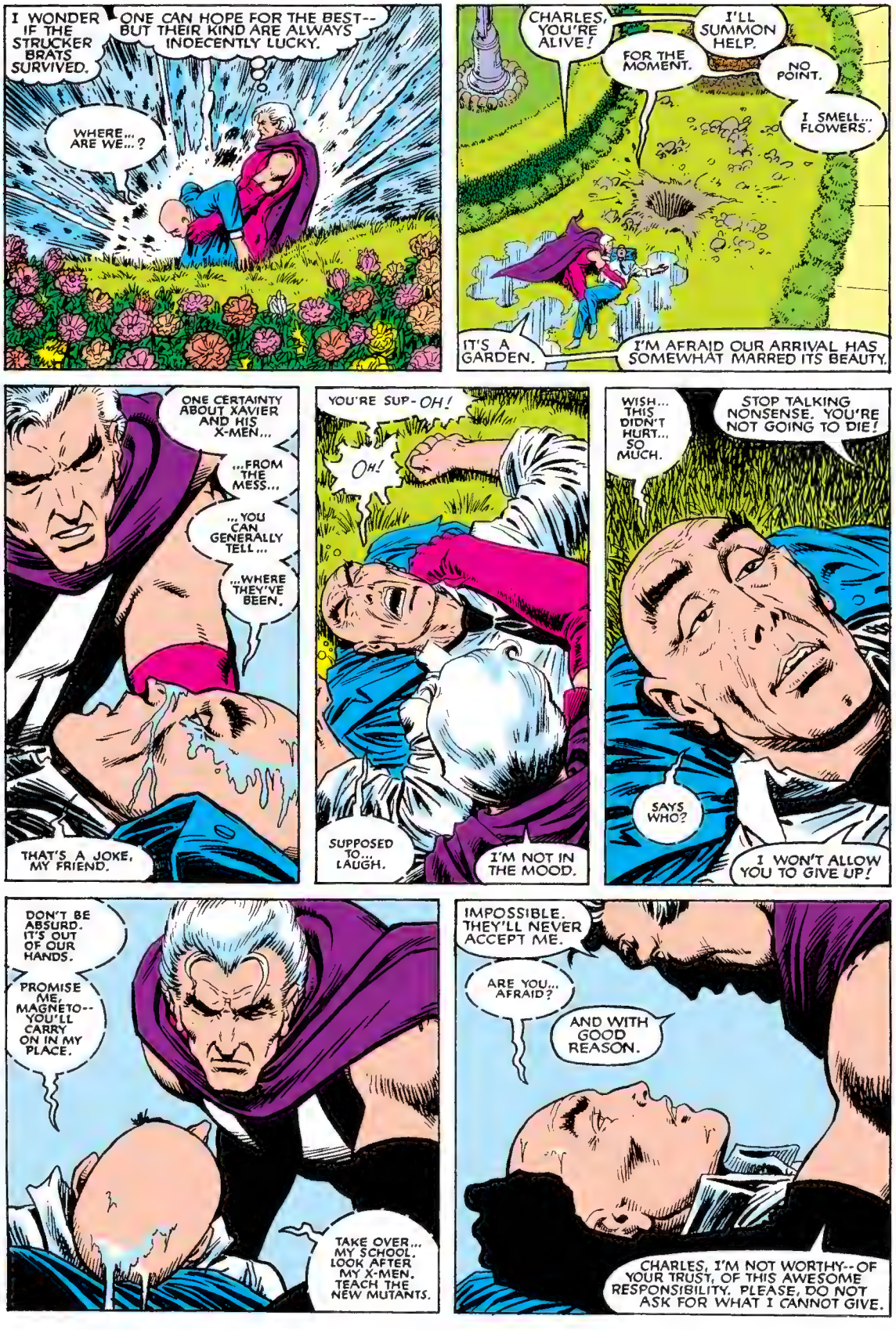
TELL US, MAGNETO--IS YOUR LIFE WORTH MORE THAN THESE HUMANS? WOULD YOU SACRIFICE IT TO SAVE THEM?!
YES.
THEY'RE LYING. THEY MEAN TO SLAY US ALL, REGARDLESS.
BUT WHAT CHOICE HAVE I?
THIS IS MY CHANCE--WHILE FENRIS IS CONCENTRATING ON MAGNETO!

I'VE BROKEN THEIR GRASP! KEEP THEM APART--
--AND THEY'RE POWERLESS!
I HOPE.
BUT IF MY DEDUCTIONS ARE INCORRECT--?!

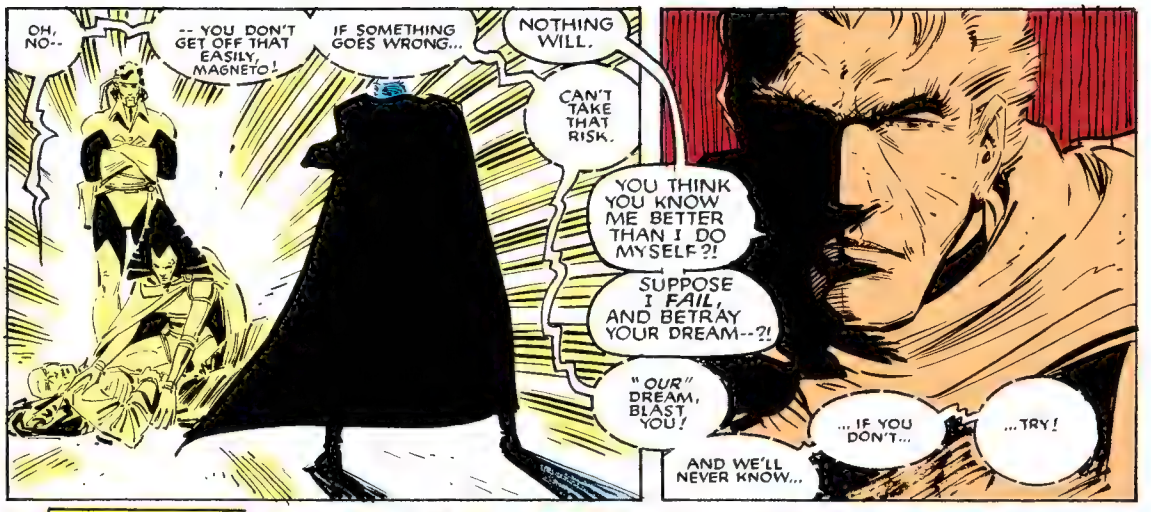

THREATEN ME, WILL YOU, MUTANT?!
BY GODFREY, I'LL SEE TO IT YOU NEVER HARM ANOTHER LIVING HUMAN SOUL!

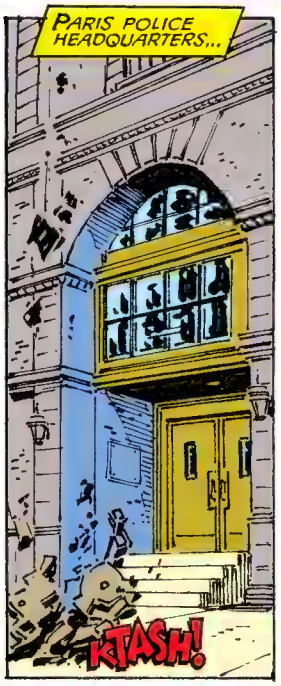

JASPERS-- STOP!
ANDREA!
I AM MY FATHER'S DAUGHTER. NO MATTER WHAT, I SHALL NOT CRY OUT!
LEAVE GO, MAN!
TAKE YOUR INHUMAN HANDS OFF ME!
YOU'RE LITTLE BETTER THAN THEY ARE...
...FOR ALL YOUR TALK OF HOPES AND DREAMS!
ENOUGH!
MAGNETO HAD NO ROCK IN HIS HAND SIR JAMES. HIS POWER COULD HAVE CRUSHED THESE CHILDREN-- YET HE CHOSE TO BE MERCIFUL.
TRULY, M'SIEU, AN "INHUMAN" ACT.
STRUCK...
YES, DEAR--YOU WERE STRUCK QUITE HARD.
NNNO-- 'S' A NAME-- IN TWINS' THOUGHTS...
STRUCK-- STRUCKER!?!
HE IS THEIR FATHER-- BARON WOLFGANG VON STRUCKER?!?
OF COURSE-- THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING!
A QUARTER-CENTURY AGO, CHARLES AND I RESCUED GABRIELLE FROM HIS CLUTCHES IN AFRICA.* I NEVER IMAGINED HE HAD CHILDREN.
*X-MEN #161 --A.
ONCE AGAIN, THE CHOICES MADE IN MY PAST...
...HAVE DEADLY REPURCUSSIONS IN THE PRESENT.
YOU ALL HAD BEST GO ON AHEAD.
CHARLES, HOW SHALL WE DEAL WITH OUR WOLF-CUBS?
I DON'T NEED TELEPATHY TO SEE MAGNETO BELIEVES THE TWINS ARE TOO DANGEROUS TO BE ALLOWED TO LIVE.
BUT BY ASKING, HE'S DEFERRING TO MY JUDGMENT-- DESPITE HIS RESERVATIONS!
WE'LL TURN THEM OVER TO THE FRENCH AUTH AHRRR!


M-MY HEART--!
CHARLES--?!
FORGET ME-- WATCH OUT... FENRIS!
BLAST!
THIS ROUND GOES TO YOU, OLD MAN!
BUT IT'S A VICTORY YOU'LL NOT LONG ENJOY!
THE BOY SHATTERED THE RIVERSIDE WALL-- THE SEINE'S POURING IN!
MAGNETO-- CHARLES-- THEY'VE BEEN SWEPT INTO THE CATACOMBS!
GOOD RIDDANCE, I SAY--
--TO BAD RUBBISH!
AS ALWAYS, SIR JAMES--
SLAP!
-- YOU TALK TOO MUCH.
NO MINDTOUCH FROM CHARLES OR RACHEL-- THEY BOTH MUST BE TOO WEAK, OR UNCONSCIOUS.
MUST TRY-- TO CATCH HOLD-- THERE HE IS!
A MIRACLE, SO FAR, WE HAVEN'T SLAMMED INTO ANYTHING-- AT THIS SPEED, ANY COLLISION IS CERTAIN TO BE FATAL.
THE FLOOD SHOWS NO SIGN OF ABATING. IF WE DON'T REACH AIR, WE'LL DROWN!

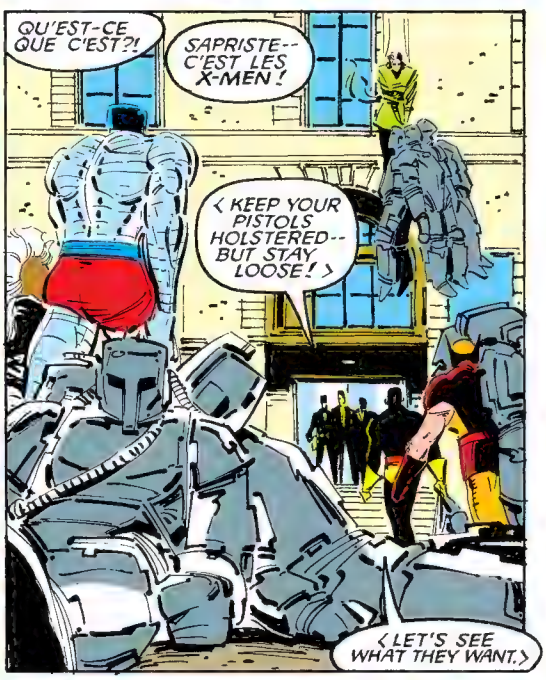

I WONDER IF THE STRUCKER BRATS SURVIVED.
ONE CAN HOPE FOR THE BEST--BUT THEIR KIND ARE ALWAYS INDECENTLY LUCKY.
WHERE... ARE WE...?
CHARLES, YOU'RE ALIVE!
I'LL SUMMON HELP.
FOR THE MOMENT.
NO POINT.
I SMELL... FLOWERS.
IT'S A GARDEN.
I'M AFRAID OUR ARRIVAL HAS SOMEWHAT MARRED ITS BEAUTY.
ONE CERTAINTY ABOUT XAVIER AND HIS X-MEN...
...FROM THE MESS...
...YOU CAN GENERALLY TELL...
...WHERE THEY'VE BEEN.
THAT'S A JOKE, MY FRIEND.
YOU'RE SUP-OH!
OH!
SUPPOSED TO... LAUGH.
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD.
WISH... THIS DIDN'T HURT... SO MUCH.
STOP TALKING NONSENSE. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIE!
SAYS WHO?
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO GIVE UP!
DON'T BE ABSURD. IT'S OUT OF OUR HANDS.
PROMISE ME, MAGNETO--YOU'LL CARRY ON IN MY PLACE.
TAKE OVER... MY SCHOOL. LOOK AFTER MY X-MEN. TEACH THE NEW MUTANTS.
IMPOSSIBLE. THEY'LL NEVER ACCEPT ME.
ARE YOU... AFRAID?
AND WITH GOOD REASON.
CHARLES, I'M NOT WORTHY--OF YOUR TRUST, OF THIS AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY. PLEASE, DO NOT ASK FOR WHAT I CANNOT GIVE.

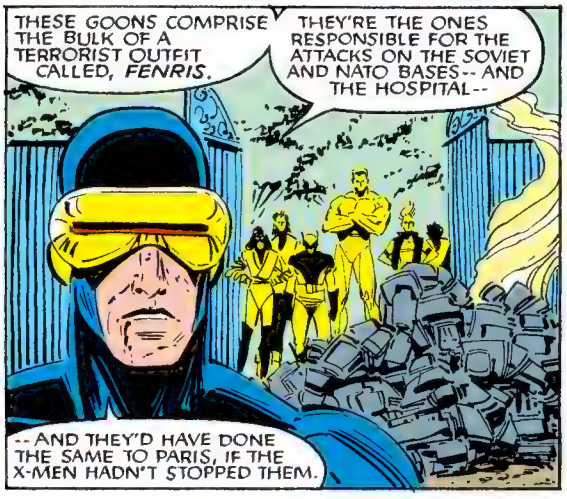
PROVE YOURSELF WORTHY!
REMEMBER-- IN ISRAEL-- WHEN WE WERE YOUNG-- THE DREAMS... IDEALS... WE SHARED?
AFTER THAT, WE WALKED TRAGICALLY DIFFERENT PATHS.
YOU SAY NOW YOURS WAS WRONG. YOU SEEK TO MAKE AMENDS-- HERE IS YOUR CHANCE!
DO WHAT NO ONE BELIEVES CAN BE DONE! IT WILL STAND AS A FAR NOBLER MONUMENT--
--AND BETTER SAFEGUARD TO MUTANTKIND-- THAN YOUR MARTYRDOM AT THIS TRIAL.
IT WILL BE HARD.
CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE.
WELL?
I SHALL TRY.
XAVIER!
MY LOVE--?!
WHAT THE DEVIL--?!?
SHARRA AND K'YTHRI--
-- WE'VE HAD THE DEVIL'S OWN TIME TRACKING YOU DOWN, DEAR HEART!
HAND ME THE MEDICAL ANALYZER SO WE CAN TRANSMIT CHARLES'S CONDITION TO SIKORSKY.
SIKORSKY...?
OF COURSE.
THE STAR-JAMMERS' PHYSICIAN PULLED COLOSSUS FROM THE JAWS OF DEATH. *
*X-MEN #156--A.
CAN HE DO ANY LESS FOR YOU?
IF ALL GOES WELL, WE'LL RETURN YOU HERE-- HALE AND HEARTY-- WITHIN THE HOUR.
THANK HEAVEN!

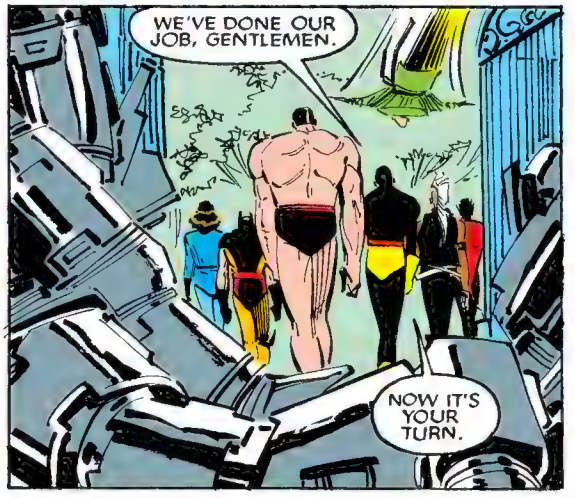

OH, NO--
-- YOU DON'T GET OFF THAT EASILY, MAGNETO!
IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG...
NOTHING WILL.
CAN'T TAKE THAT RISK.
YOU THINK YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN I DO MYSELF?!
SUPPOSE I FAIL, AND BETRAY YOUR DREAM--?!
"OUR" DREAM, BLAST YOU!
AND WE'LL NEVER KNOW...
...IF YOU DON'T...
...TRY!

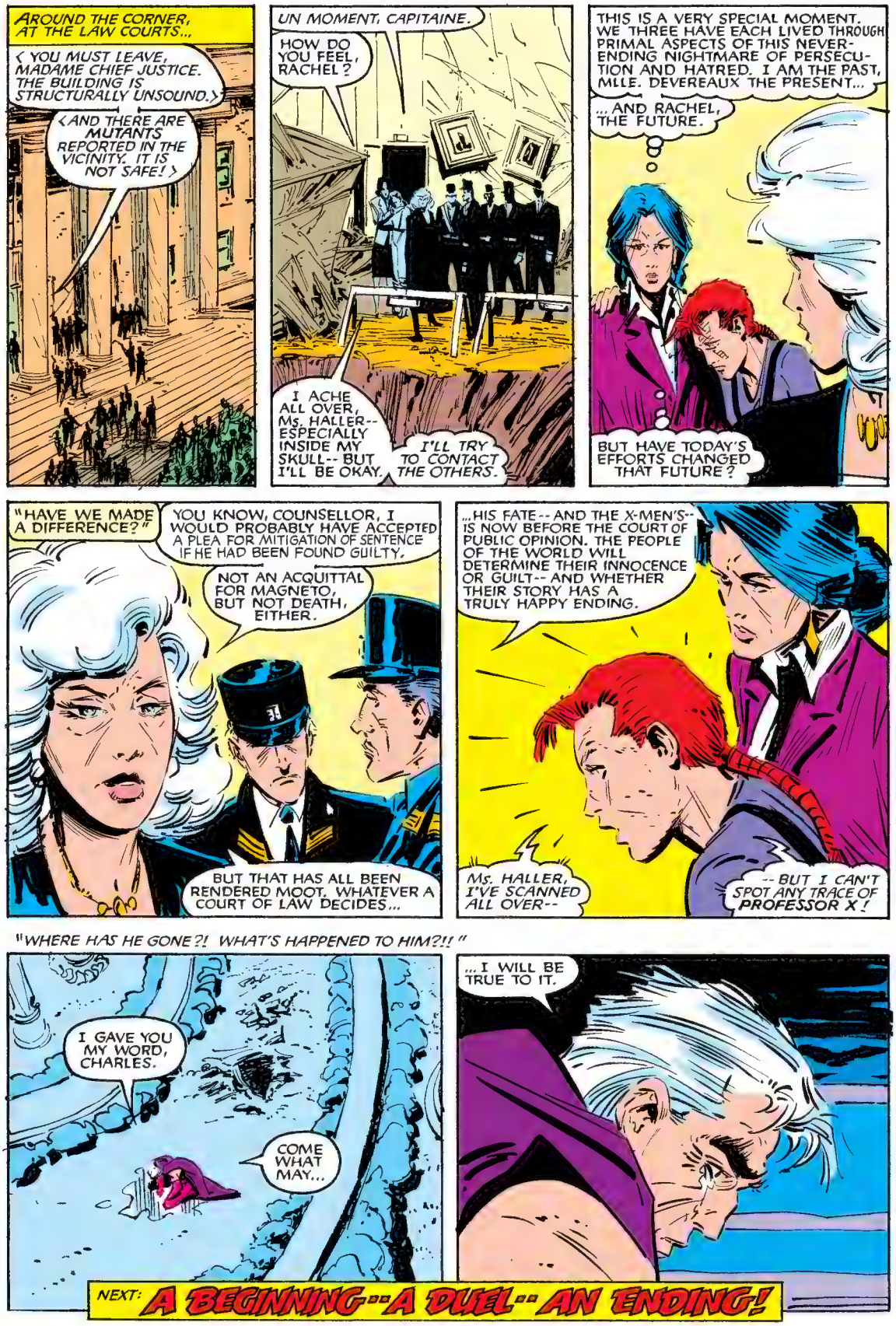

PARIS POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
KTASH!

?!?


QU'EST-CE QUE C'EST?!
SAPRISTE-- C'EST LES X-MEN!
‹KEEP YOUR PISTOLS HOLSTERED-- BUT STAY LOOSE!›
‹LET'S SEE WHAT THEY WANT.›


THESE GOONS COMPRISE THE BULK OF A TERRORIST OUTFIT CALLED, FENRIS.
THEY'RE THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACKS ON THE SOVIET AND NATO BASES-- AND THE HOSPITAL--
--AND THEY'D HAVE DONE THE SAME TO PARIS, IF THE X-MEN HADN'T STOPPED THEM.


WE'VE DONE OUR JOB, GENTLEMEN.
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.


AROUND THE CORNER, AT THE LAW COURTS...
〈 YOU MUST LEAVE, MADAME CHIEF JUSTICE. THE BUILDING IS STRUCTURALLY UNSOUND.〉
〈 AND THERE ARE MUTANTS REPORTED IN THE VICINITY. IT IS NOT SAFE! 〉
UN MOMENT, CAPITAINE.
HOW DO YOU FEEL, RACHEL?
I ACHE ALL OVER, Ms. HALLER-- ESPECIALLY INSIDE MY SKULL-- BUT I'LL BE OKAY.
I'LL TRY TO CONTACT THE OTHERS.
THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL MOMENT. WE THREE HAVE EACH LIVED THROUGH PRIMAL ASPECTS OF THIS NEVER-ENDING NIGHTMARE OF PERSECUTION AND HATRED. I AM THE PAST, MLLE. DEVEREAUX THE PRESENT...
... AND RACHEL, THE FUTURE.
BUT HAVE TODAY'S EFFORTS CHANGED THAT FUTURE?
"HAVE WE MADE A DIFFERENCE?"
YOU KNOW, COUNSELLOR, I WOULD PROBABLY HAVE ACCEPTED A PLEA FOR MITIGATION OF SENTENCE IF HE HAD BEEN FOUND GUILTY.
NOT AN ACQUITTAL FOR MAGNETO, BUT NOT DEATH, EITHER.
BUT THAT HAS ALL BEEN RENDERED MOOT. WHATEVER A COURT OF LAW DECIDES...
...HIS FATE-- AND THE X-MEN'S-- IS NOW BEFORE THE COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION. THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WILL DETERMINE THEIR INNOCENCE OR GUILT-- AND WHETHER THEIR STORY HAS A TRULY HAPPY ENDING.
Ms. HALLER, I'VE SCANNED ALL OVER--
-- BUT I CAN'T SPOT ANY TRACE OF PROFESSOR X!
"WHERE HAS HE GONE?! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?!!"
I GAVE YOU MY WORD, CHARLES.
COME WHAT MAY...
... I WILL BE TRUE TO IT.
NEXT: A BEGINNING--A DUEL--AN ENDING!

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ADVENTURES
Secret Lives of the X-Men

COMPILED FROM THE FILES OF PROFESSOR X

X-MEN DATA LOG

NIGHTCRAWLER

NIGHTCRAWLER

Given Name — Kurt Wagner

Birthplace — Unknown... believed to be within the borders of Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Federal Republic of Germany)

Parents — Identity of natural parents unknown

POWERS--

Teleportational & Acrobatic: Nightcrawler is able to teleport himself and a small amount of mass through three-dimensional space; maximum range: approximately ten kilometers. He possesses astounding speed and agility, and — due to the unusual gripping power of his hands and feet — is able to scale sheer walls. His tail is prehensile.

COMMENTS--

A foundling, Kurt was raised by the gypsy-queen — and sorceress supreme — Margali Szardos, and grew up as a member of a small provincial travelling circus.

His teleporting is, unfortunately, accompanied by a sulfurous discharge.

Nightcrawler's solo adventure from *Bizarre Adventures* #27 takes place before the X-Men's battle with Proteus, circa *The X-Men* #125.

"Show me the way to go home..."

WITNESS A RARITY: A QUIET AFTERNOON AT PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS. THE PUPILS ARE ALL YOUNG ADULTS OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES. IN ADDITION, THEY ARE ALL MUTANTS, EACH ONE POSSESSED OF A SPECIAL TALENT OR ABILITY CAUSED BY A UNIQUE FACTOR IN HIS OR HER GENETIC MAKEUP.
IN SHORT, THEY ARE THE UNCANNY X-MEN, THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME.
I DON'T GET IT, I JUST DON'T SEE THE POINT OF WATCHING A MOVIE WHEN YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN IT SO OFTEN YOU KNOW ALL THE DIALOGUE BY HEART. ESPECIALLY NOT WHEN THE HERO ACTS LIKE SUCH A WIMP!
IT'S MY FAVORITE FILM, WOLVERINE.
CHIPS
HIS BATH WAS TEPID! POOR LOLITA-- I FEAR HER WEDDED LIFE WILL BE THE SAME!
IT IS SO INTERESTING!

THIS ZORRO... HE IS A DEFENDER OF THE WORKERS, THE PROLETARIAT, JUST LIKE THE HEROES OF THE REVOLUTION IN MY NATIVE RUSSIA!
VREEEEE
IT SOUNDS LIKE CEREBRO!
Vas--?
BUT, STORM, CEREBRO IS THE ONLY MACHINE THE PROFESSOR USES TO LOCATE OTHER MUTANTS. IT'S NEVER MADE A NOISE LIKE THAT BEFORE!
IT SOUNDS URGENT!
BAMF
VRE
NIGHTCRAWLER, YOU'D BETTER TELEPORT AHEAD AND.. OH, NEVER MIND.
EEEEEEEEEE
AND, INSTANTANEOUSLY IN ANOTHER PART OF THE MANSION...
USEFUL, SOMETIMES, BEING A TELEPORTER.
NOW WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?
AND, WHEN THE OTHER X-MEN FINALLY REACH THE COMPUTER ROOM...
WELL, WHAT'S WRONG?
HALF A MUTANT?
IT IS INCREDIBLE! CEREBRO HAS DETECTED A HALF A MUTANT!
CEREBRO SAYS THERE IS HALF A MUTANT... IN A PLACE CALLED POUGHKEEPSIE. IS THERE REALLY A CITY WITH SUCH A NAME? Unglaublich!

SHORTLY, AS THE X-MEN ARRIVE IN ONE OF THEIR PRIVATE AIRCRAFT, THEY LEARN THAT CERBBRO WAS ACCURATE IN BOTH THE NAME OF THE CITY... AND IN THE PERCENTAGE OF A MUTANT THEY'D FIND THERE...
IT... LOOKS LIKE THE VANISHER!
PART OF HIM, ANYWAY.

WHAT IS THAT BLACKNESS? AND WHERE IS THE REST OF HIM?
BEATS ME. WISH EVERYONE WE FOUGHT END-ED UP LIKE THAT, THOUGH.
MONTHS AGO, AFTER HIS DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE NOW DISBANDED CHAMPIONS TEAM, THE VANISHER TRIED TO ESCAPE BY HIS OWN STYLE OF TELEPORTATION. THE HEROINE DARKSTAR STOPPED HIM LITERALLY HALFWAY, USING HER MYSTERIOUS POWER, THE DARKFORCE.

AT LONG LAST, MILES AWAY, THE REST OF THE VANISHER HAS REAPPEARED.
BE CAREFUL, NIGHTCRAWLER. DON'T TOUCH HIM.
BUT I ONLY WANT TO--!

TAKE TWO MUTANTS WHO ARE TELEPORTERS, ADD A LOW DENSITY ENERGY FIELD OF UNKNOWN ORIGINS...
...AND STAND BACK.
BAMF
IT'S CLEAR OVER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
THAT DOES IT! I'M MOVIN BACK TO JERSEY.

SURROUNDED BY THE ROILING MASS OF DARKFORCE, THEY ARE FLUNG ACROSS THE DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS, BURSTING THROUGH MYRIAD REALITIES...

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

IMAGES FLASH BY AROUND THEM, REFLECTING PROBABILITIES... THE BEINGS THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN, HAD THEY COME FROM ONE OF THESE OTHER UNIVERSES, INSTEAD OF THEIR OWN.

THEY ARE PASSING THROUGH EVERYWHERE... AND NOWHERE.

UNTIL, AT LAST, COMES THE MOMENT OF SEPARATION...
...AND LANDING.
:OOF:
OUCH
OH, MY ACHING BACK!
YAG--?!
WHERE AM I?
AND WHERE DID THE VANISHER GO?
HOW AM I GOING TO GET BACK HOME?
OR AT LEAST TO POUGHKEEPSIE?
HI, THERE, HANDSOME!
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WOULD NOT BE SUCH A BAD THING IF I STAYED HERE AWHILE.
YOU KNOW HE'S REALLY CUTE!
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D LIKE A JOB AS A GOD OR A KING OR ANYTHING, WOULD YOU?
WE'VE GOT AN OPENING FOR ONE.

GODHOOD... ME? JUST LIKE THAT?
SURE! AS YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED, MALES ARE AT A PREMIUM AROUND HERE. WE MAKE THE MOST OF THEM WHEN WE GET THEM.
LOVE THE TAIL
LIEBCHEN, I'D LOVE TO STAY AND BE YOUR GOD, BUT SOONER OR LATER I'LL HAVE TO GO...
POOT
I WENT "POOT"! I DIDN'T GO "BAMF"! I DIDN'T TELEPORT!
POOT? YOU'LL HAVE TO GO "POOT"?
I'M TRAPPED HERE!
AND, NOT TOO FAR AWAY...
AND WHERE IS HE?
?MMMMMMMPh.!? WHERE DID THAT BLUE-FURRED IDIOT LAND ME?
AROOOO
HEY! LOOK OVER THERE!
OH, MY GOD! WHO ARE THEY! THERE ARE MORE OF THEM THAN THERE ARE OF ME!
EEEEP!
WANNA MAKE HIM OUR GOD?
I DON'T KNOW... HE'S AWFULLY SMALL.
BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS. LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF HIM.
STAY BACK, ALL OF YOU! I AM THE VANISHER... er... THE GREAT AND POWERFUL VANISHER...
I WILL BROOK NO FAMILIARITY... OR THREATS... OR ATTEMPTS TO HURT ME...
IF YOU DARE TO TEMPT MY WRATH, I'LL... I'LL...

PUT
I DON'T GET IT.
HUH? I'M STILL HERE!
NO FAIR! THIS IS DARKSTAR'S DOING! THE DARKFORCE IS STILL CANCELLING OUT MY TELEPORTATION POWERS!
GEE--THAT WAS A FUNNY NOISE!
CORRECT! AND THAT'S NOT ALL I CAN DO, EITHER!
OOGA
DARKSTAR COULD MAKE THIS STUFF INTO WEAPONS AND THINGS...IF I CAN ONLY REMEMBER HOW...
AHA!
NOW, STAND BACK, OR YOU'LL TASTE THE CUTTING EDGE OF MY--
...MY... ...MY... ...UM...
WHAT'S MORE THIS STUFF IS GREAT FOR GETTING LAUGHS AT PARTIES. heh...heh...
MOTHER.
COME ON, YOU'LL ENJOY GODHOOD. THE WORKING CONDITIONS ARE GREAT.
SO'S THE PAY.
I STILL DON'T GET IT!
DOESN'T MATTER. HE WON'T LAST LONG. THEY NEVER DO.

AND.
YOU MEAN YOU REALLY MAKE EVERY MAN WHO LANDS HERE INTO YOUR GOD AND KING?
OF COURSE. WE HAVE A ROTATING THEOCRATIC MONARCHY WITH A HIGH TURNOVER IN FIGURE-HEADS...
THERE ARE NO MALES NATIVE TO THIS PLANET, AND WE HAVE TO KEEP THE POPULATION UP...
YAY, GOD!
SURELY YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE CLASSIC CRAVING OF THE PRIMITIVE CULTURE FOR RELIGION.

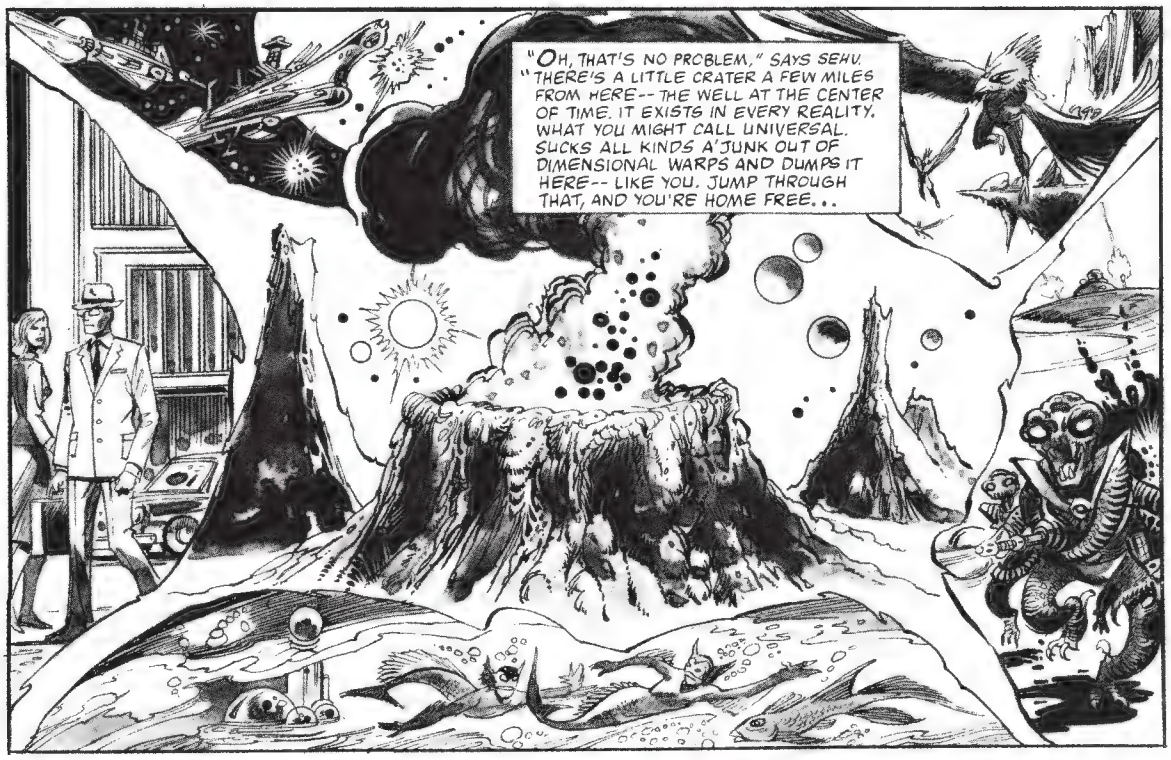
A HIGH TURNOVER RATE, HUH? HOW MANY GODS HAVE YOU HAD?
A FEW. THEY COME AND THEY GO.

COME FROM WHERE? GO HOW?
I BET THE ORACLE KNOWS.
WE DON'T KNOW!
YOU HAVE AN ORACLE? NOW THAT I'D LIKE TO SEE!
OKAY. YOUR WISH IS OUR COMMAND.

SKREEK SKREEK SKREEK
OOGA
WHAT ARE ALL THOSE SOUNDS?
COME ON. THE CAVE OF THE ORACLE IS THIS WAY.

ORACLE
IT'S IN THERE!
I'D NEVER HAVE GUESSED.
SHOULD WE JUST GO BARGING IN LIKE THIS? EVEN A TEMPORARY GOD HAS GOT TO HAVE SOME MANNERS, YOU KNOW...
OH, NO! THE ORACLE LOVES AUDIENCES! SHE THRIVES ON THEM!
MAYBE IF I PETITION FOR AN AUDIENCE...
MEIN GOTT!
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!
OH, WELL. MIGHT AS WELL GET IT OVER WITH, I SUPPOSE...
THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH YOUR SET
WELL, JUNIOR, WHAT ARE YOU STARIN' AT? SAY SOMETHIN'! CAT GOT YER TONGUE?
Uh... Uh... Uh...
WHAT'SAMATTER? PICTURE AIN'T IMPRESSIVE ENOUGH FOR YA? LISTEN, I'M SEHV, TOUGHEST OL' ORACLE YOU'LL EVER MEET, AN' IF YOU GIVE ME ANY GRIEF, I'LL PUT SUCH A CURSE ON YA, YOU'LL WISH YOU'D NEVER BEEN BORN!

GOT IT? GOOD.
NOW, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
NIGHTCRAWLER EXPLAINS HIS SITUATION, AND..


"OH, THAT'S NO PROBLEM," SAYS SEHU. "THERE'S A LITTLE CRATER A FEW MILES FROM HERE-- THE WELL AT THE CENTER OF TIME. IT EXISTS IN EVERY REALITY. WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL UNIVERSAL. SUCKS ALL KINDS A'JUNK OUT OF DIMENSIONAL WARPS AND DUMPS IT HERE-- LIKE YOU. JUMP THROUGH THAT, AND YOU'RE HOME FREE...

... SO LONG AS YOU LEAVE WITH EVERYTHING YOU ARRIVED WITH. TRY TO LEAVE SOMETHING BEHIND, OR TAKE SOMETHING EXTRA...
...AND NOT EVEN I CAN GUESS WHERE YOU MIGHT END UP!
DANKE SCHOEN.

NOT SO FAST, GAINSBOROUGH.' ONE MORE THING BEFORE YOU BUG OUT. SOME FREE ADVICE.
THIS IS A GREAT DIMENSION, BUT IT HAS A FEW DRAWBACKS.
IF YOU'RE SMART YOU'LL WATCH YOUR TAIL TILL YOU GET SAFELY HOME.

VAS..? WAS SHE JUST SHOWING OFF, TRYING TO SEND ME OFF ON A PORTENTOUS NOTE...
...OR, IS SOMETHING REALLY WRONG HERE?

DAYS, LATER, AND MILES AWAY...
ME AND BEAUTIFUL WOMEN--I LOVE IT!
ANYTHING ELSE WE CAN DO FOR YOU, YOUR MAGNIFICENCE?
NOT RIGHT NOW, MY DEAR. DON'T WORRY, I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.

SUPPOSE YOU WERE A PETTY THUG... A LITTLE MAN WITH A UNIQUE TALENT THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PUT TO EVIL USES... SUPPOSE YOU WERE GRANTED GODHOOD. WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
NOT BAD... NOT BAD AT ALL... I WONDER IF THERE'S A FENCE ON THIS PLANET.
AH, WELL... SOME HABITS ARE HARD TO BREAK.

VANISHER!
GAAHH--!

OH, IT'S ONLY YOU. YOU SCARED ME HALF TO DEATH! HOW DID YOU PULL THAT STUNT, APPEARING OUT OF THE SHADOWS, ANYWAY?
WHAT, THAT OLD TRICK? I'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR YEARS.

AND I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR DAYS. I WANT TO GO HOME--OR EVEN BACK TO POUGHKEEPSIE--AND I CAN'T GET THERE WITHOUT YOU.
TOUGH! I DON'T WANT TO GO!
THEN I'LL HAVE TO USE FORCE!

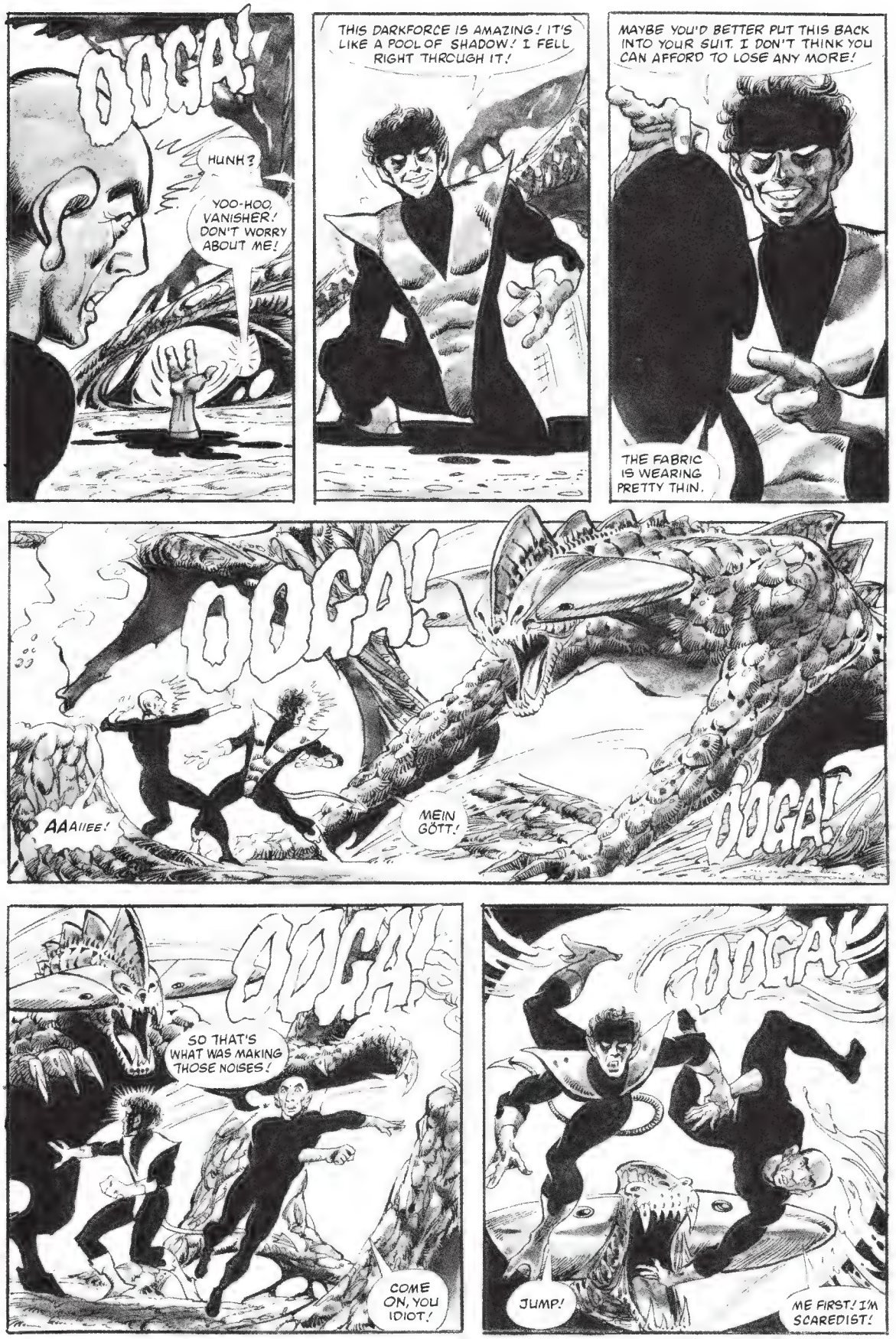
F-FORCE...?
GIRLS, HELP! SAVE ME!

OH, THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH BEING A GOD--YOU HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING YOURSELF!
YOU'LL NEVER GET ME THAT WAY, MEIN FREUND! BEFORE THE X-MEN RECRUITED ME, I WAS A CARNIVAL ACROBAT!
AHA! SWORDS, eh? SWASHBUCKLING? NOW YOU'RE TALKING MY LANGUAGE!
en GARDE!
ZUT ALORS!
CAFE au LAIT!
TALLY HO!
BOOT
OW!
OW!

ALL RIGHT... ALL RIGHT, NOW YOU'VE DONE IT! YOU'VE MADE ME MAD!
IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN TUPPERWARE® TO STOP ME!
I'M DETERMINED!
ME, TOO!
ALSO, I'M LEAVING.
THEY DON'T CALL ME THE VANISHER FOR NOTHING!
COME BACK HERE, YOU COWARD!
GOD, YOU MUSN'T GO OUT AFTER DARK IT'S DANGEROUS!
:Sigh: OH, WELL... I NEEDED THE EXERCISE ANYWAY!
HEE-HEE! HE'LL NEVER CATCH ME--

--NOW!
OW! OW! OW!
LEGGO! NO FAIR! FOUL! OFF-SIDES!
NOW, MEIN HERR, ARE YOU COMING WITH ME, OR DO I HAVE TO GET TOUGH?
I'LL COME! I'LL COME! DON'T HURT ME!
I CAN'T STAND PAIN!
VREET MOOOO
GOOD. THEN LET'S BE ON OUR WAY BEFORE ANY OF YOUR SUBJECTS GET SILLY IDEAS ABOUT DEFENDING YOU.
OH, NEVER MIND US. IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED, BUT WE'LL GET OVER THE LOSS.
BE CAREFUL.
COME BACK AGAIN, UNLESS YOU GET KILLED!
LATER...
THERE IT IS! THAT LITTLE HOLE IS OUR TICKET HOME!
OH, NO! YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO JUMP INTO THAT!
I'M PHILOSOPHICALLY OPPOSED TO DYING!
BRANG
WACKA WACKA
OOGA!

AND MAYBE I DON'T HAVE TO.. I'LL TRY USING THE DARKFORCE AGAIN!..
ALL I NEED TO CONTROL IT IS GREATER EXERTION OF WILLPOWER & MENTAL ENERGY!
OOGA
WELL, NIGHTCRAWLER, LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT THE UPPER HAND NOW!
OW!
OOPSIE!
I COULDN'T HOLD THE HAND! MY WILL WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH!
S-SAY YOU'RE NOT MAD AT ME FOR DROPPING YOU, ARE YOU?
NOT MAD AS I WILL BE IF YOU TRY ANY MORE FOOLISH STUNTS!
OH, YEAH? EAT THIS!
CLEEPLE
I DID IT! I DID IT! I OBLITERATED HIM!


OOGA!
HUNH?
YOO-HOO, VANISHER! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
THIS DARKFORCE IS AMAZING! IT'S LIKE A POOL OF SHADOW! I FELL RIGHT THROUGH IT!
MAYBE YOU'D BETTER PUT THIS BACK INTO YOUR SUIT. I DON'T THINK YOU CAN AFFORD TO LOSE ANY MORE!
THE FABRIC IS WEARING PRETTY THIN.
OOGA!
AAAIIEE!
MEIN GÖTT!
OOGA!
OOGA!
SO THAT'S WHAT WAS MAKING THOSE NOISES!
COME ON, YOU IDIOT!
OOGA!
JUMP!
ME FIRST! I'M SCAREDIST!

AGAIN THE DARKFORCE SEETHES AROUND THEM, UNTIL, AT LAST, IT IS EXHAUSTED, AND..
NIGHTCRAWLER!
Oh, No.
FANTASTISCH! WE LANDED WHERE WE LEFT... AND WHEN WE LEFT, AS WELL!
STAND BACK, X-MEN! I WARN YOU, I'M... I'M...
...I'M NAKED!
NIGHTCRAWLER, WE'D LIKE AN EXPLANATION. CAN'T YOU TELL US WHERE YOU'VE BEEN?
PARADISE, STORM, PARADISE. AND SOMEDAY, I'M GOING BACK!
BUT, RIGHT NOW, I'M GOING--
BAMF
END.

MARVEL
#1 IN A FOUR-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
NIGHTCRAWLER
FABULOUS 1ST ISSUE!
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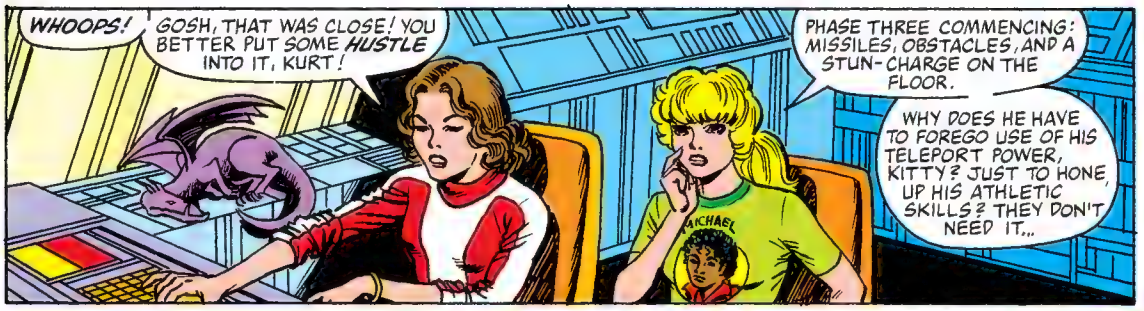
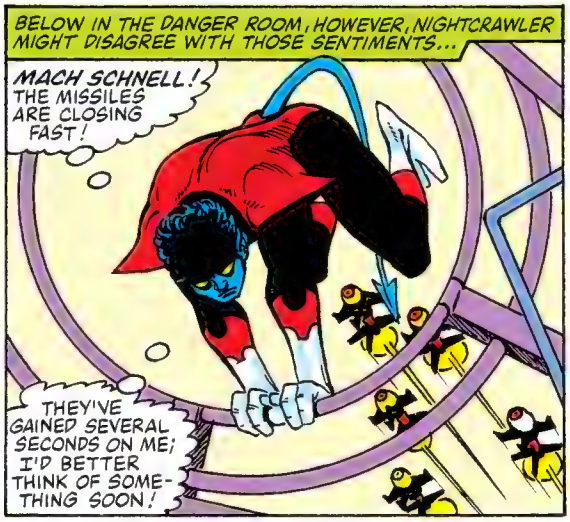
Cockrum

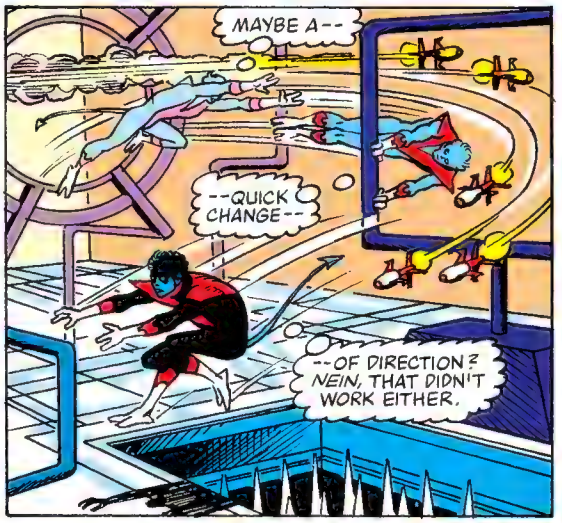
Stan Lee PRESENTS: NIGHTCRAWLER!

IT'S A QUIET AFTERNOON AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS. ALMOST EVERYONE IS OUT FOR THE DAY. ONLY NEW MUTANT ILLYANA RASPUTIN AND X-MEN KITTY PRYDE AND KURT WAGNER--NIGHTCRAWLER--ARE AT HOME, OCCUPYING THEIR TIME WITH AN IMPORTANT TRAINING SESSION IN THE DANGER ROOM.
OVERSEEING THE CONTROL CONSOLE, THE TWO GIRLS WATCH AS NIGHTCRAWLER BOUNDS THROUGH A STRENUOUS SERIES OF EXERCISES AND MANEUVERS, WHEN SUDDENLY--
ACH-- MISSILES!
THAT ROTTEN MACHINE--THROWING MISSILES AT ME DURING A "NO-TELEPORT" EXERCISE--!
OH-OH! BETTER MOVE IT, FUZZY-ELF!
TIME TO SHOW SOME OF THE DAZZLING AERIAL FOOTWORK I'M SO REVERED FOR, AND GET MY PREHENSILE TAIL OUT OF HERE!
HOW MUCH IS THAT BOGGIE IN THE WINDOW?

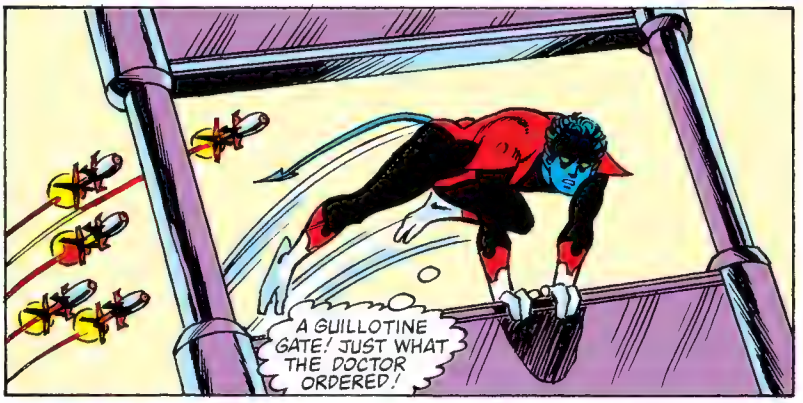
WRITER/ARTIST *DAVE COCKRUM* / COLORIST *PATY* / LETTERER *JIM NOVAK* / EDITOR *ANN NOCENTI* / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF *JIM SHOOTER*


WHOOPS!
GOSH, THAT WAS CLOSE! YOU BETTER PUT SOME HUSTLE INTO IT, KURT!
PHASE THREE COMMENCING: MISSILES, OBSTACLES, AND A STUN-CHARGE ON THE FLOOR.
WHY DOES HE HAVE TO FOREGO USE OF HIS TELEPORT POWER, KITTY? JUST TO HONE UP HIS ATHLETIC SKILLS? THEY DON'T NEED IT,,

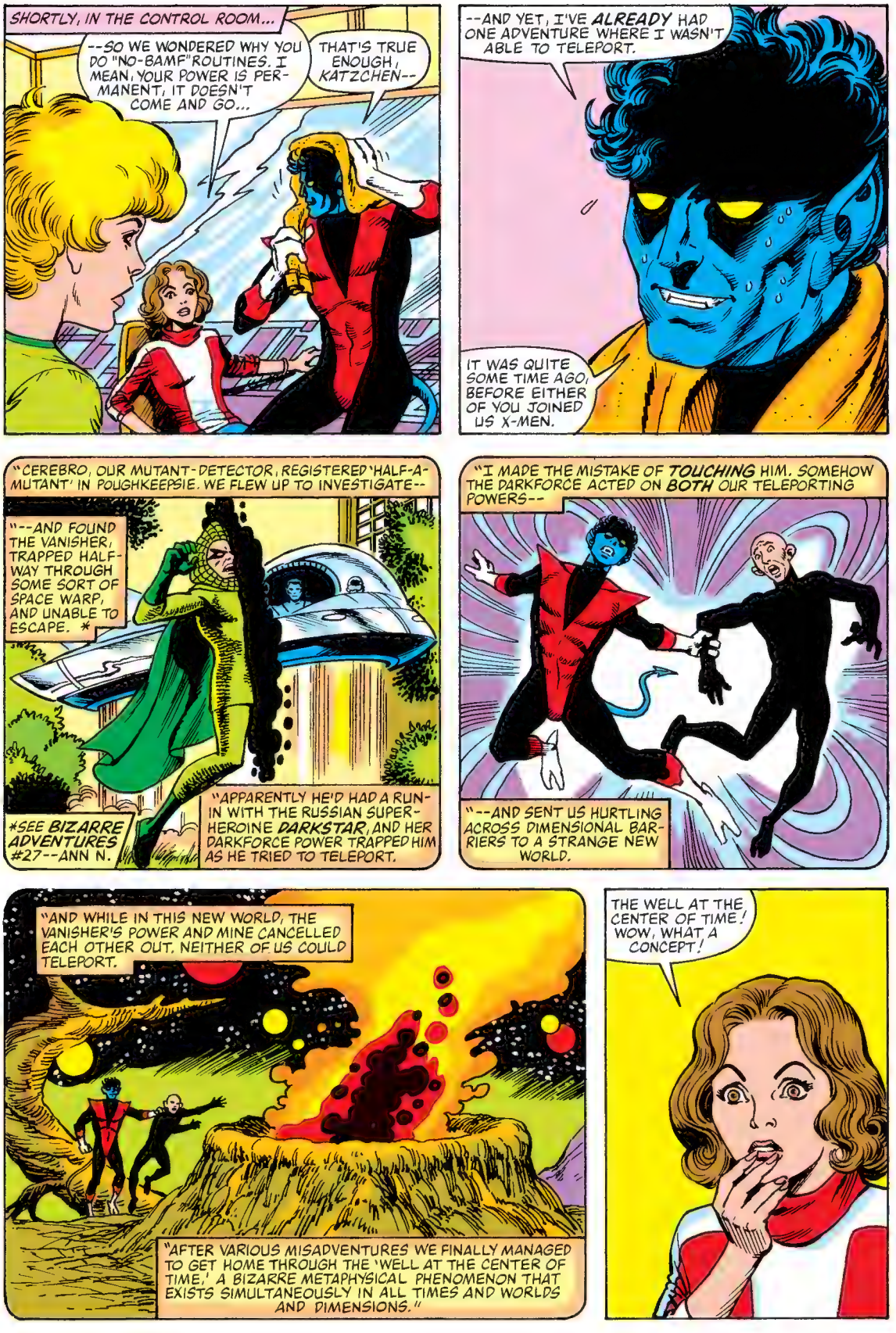

BELOW IN THE DANGER ROOM, HOWEVER, NIGHTCRAWLER MIGHT DISAGREE WITH THOSE SENTIMENTS...
MACH SCHNELL! THE MISSILES ARE CLOSING FAST!
THEY'VE GAINED SEVERAL SECONDS ON ME; I'D BETTER THINK OF SOMETHING SOON!

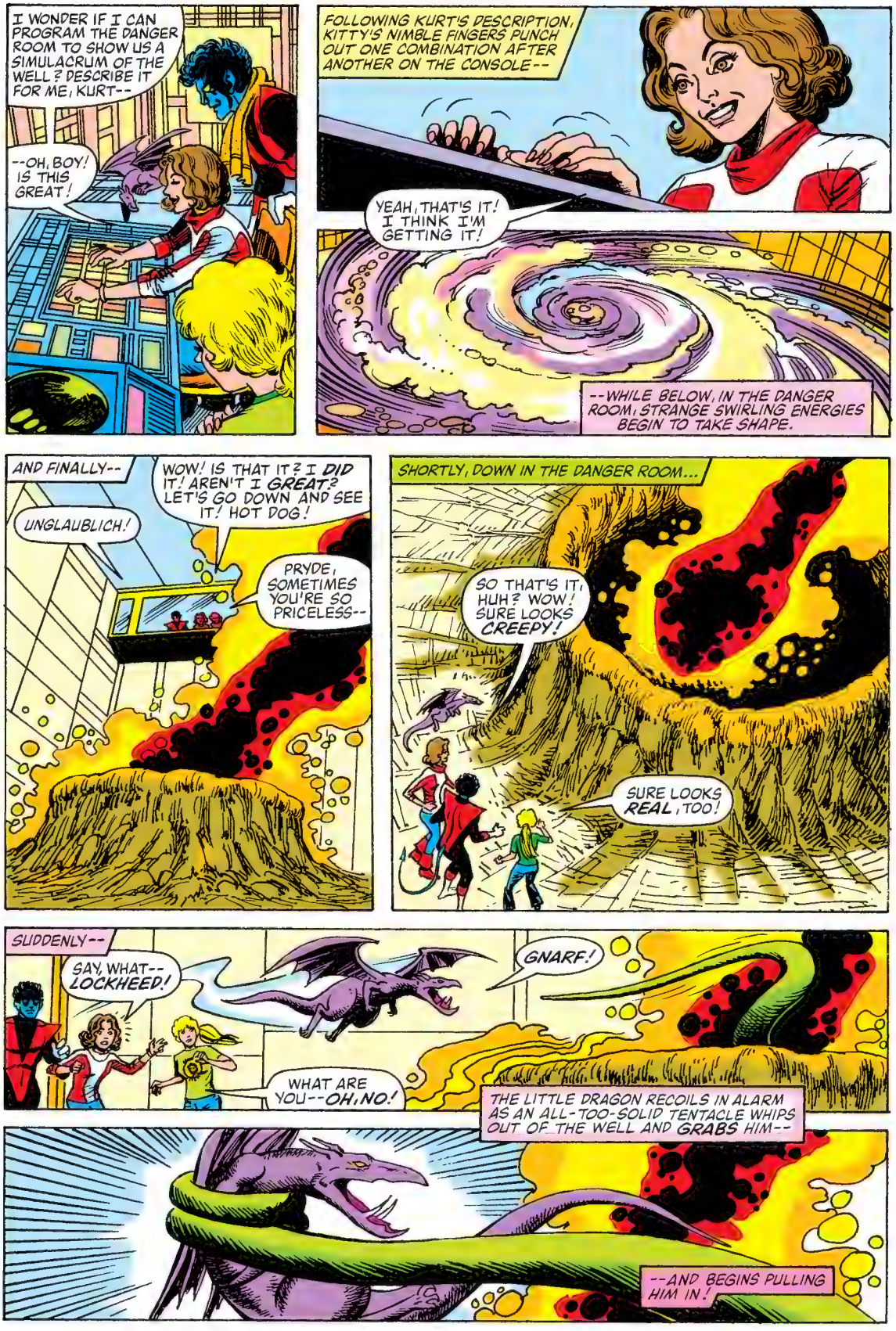

MAYBE A--
--QUICK CHANGE--
--OF DIRECTION? NEIN, THAT DIDN'T WORK EITHER.

WE'RE GONNA HAVE FRICASSEED NIGHTCRAWLER IN ONE MINUTE UNLESS I--AHA!


A GUILLOTINE GATE! JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!

BLAM!
CHOMP!
BINGO!
WHEN YOU'RE BORN WITH A TAIL, YOU LEARN TO GO THROUGH DOORS FAST!

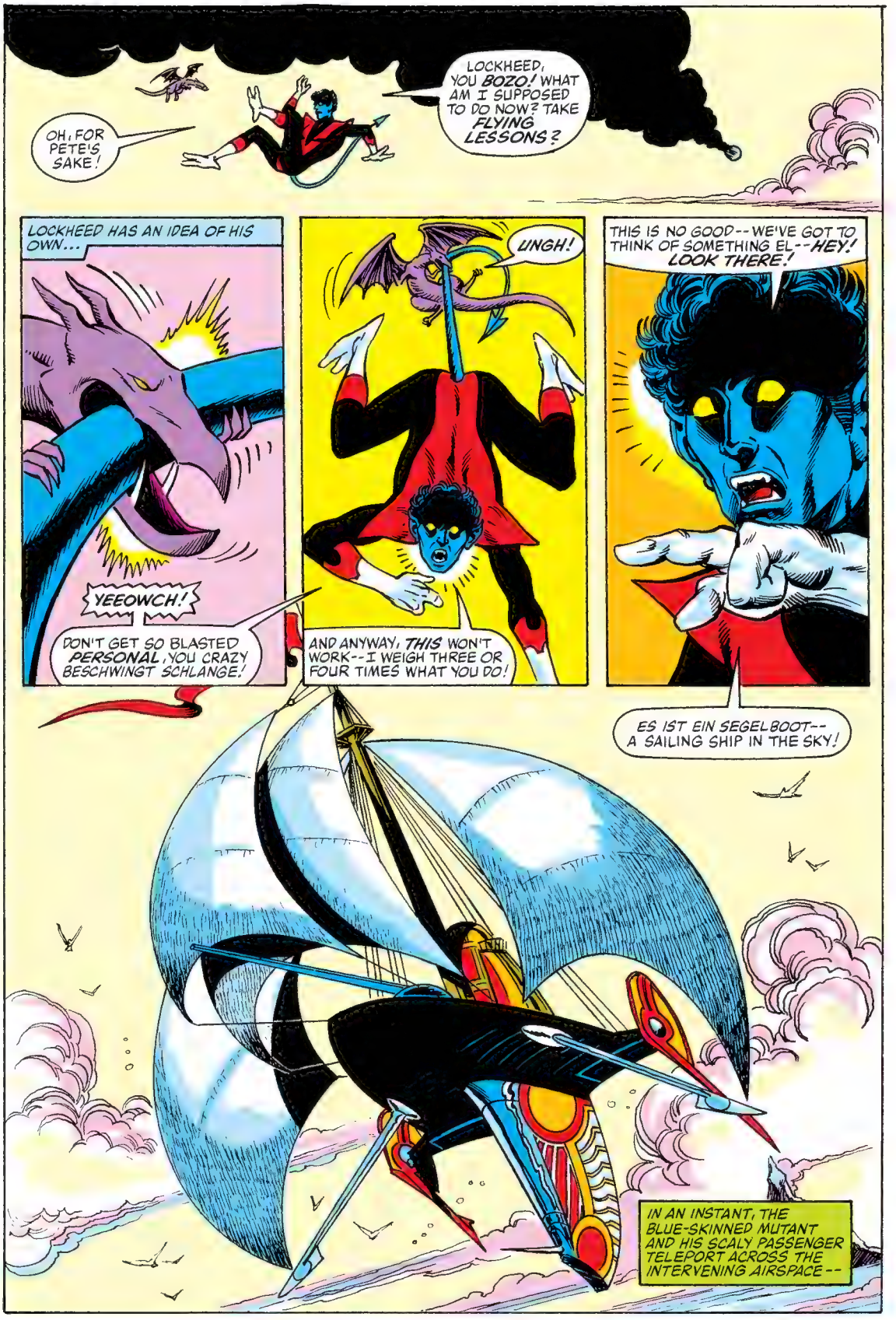

SHORTLY, IN THE CONTROL ROOM...
--SO WE WONDERED WHY YOU DO "NO-BAMF" ROUTINES. I MEAN, YOUR POWER IS PERMANENT, IT DOESN'T COME AND GO...
THAT'S TRUE ENOUGH, KATZCHEN--
--AND YET, I'VE ALREADY HAD ONE ADVENTURE WHERE I WASN'T ABLE TO TELEPORT.
IT WAS QUITE SOME TIME AGO, BEFORE EITHER OF YOU JOINED US X-MEN.
"CEREBRO, OUR MUTANT-DETECTOR, REGISTERED 'HALF-A-MUTANT' IN POUGHKEEPSIE. WE FLEW UP TO INVESTIGATE--
"--AND FOUND THE VANISHER, TRAPPED HALFWAY THROUGH SOME SORT OF SPACE WARP, AND UNABLE TO ESCAPE. *
"APPARENTLY HE'D HAD A RUN-IN WITH THE RUSSIAN SUPERHEROINE DARKSTAR, AND HER DARKFORCE POWER TRAPPED HIM AS HE TRIED TO TELEPORT.
*SEE BIZARRE ADVENTURES #27--ANN N.
"I MADE THE MISTAKE OF TOUCHING HIM. SOMEHOW THE DARKFORCE ACTED ON BOTH OUR TELEPORTING POWERS--
"--AND SENT US HURTLING ACROSS DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS TO A STRANGE NEW WORLD.
"AND WHILE IN THIS NEW WORLD, THE VANISHER'S POWER AND MINE CANCELLED EACH OTHER OUT. NEITHER OF US COULD TELEPORT.
"AFTER VARIOUS MISADVENTURES WE FINALLY MANAGED TO GET HOME THROUGH THE 'WELL AT THE CENTER OF TIME,' A BIZARRE METAPHYSICAL PHENOMENON THAT EXISTS SIMULTANEOUSLY IN ALL TIMES AND WORLDS AND DIMENSIONS."
THE WELL AT THE CENTER OF TIME! WOW, WHAT A CONCEPT!

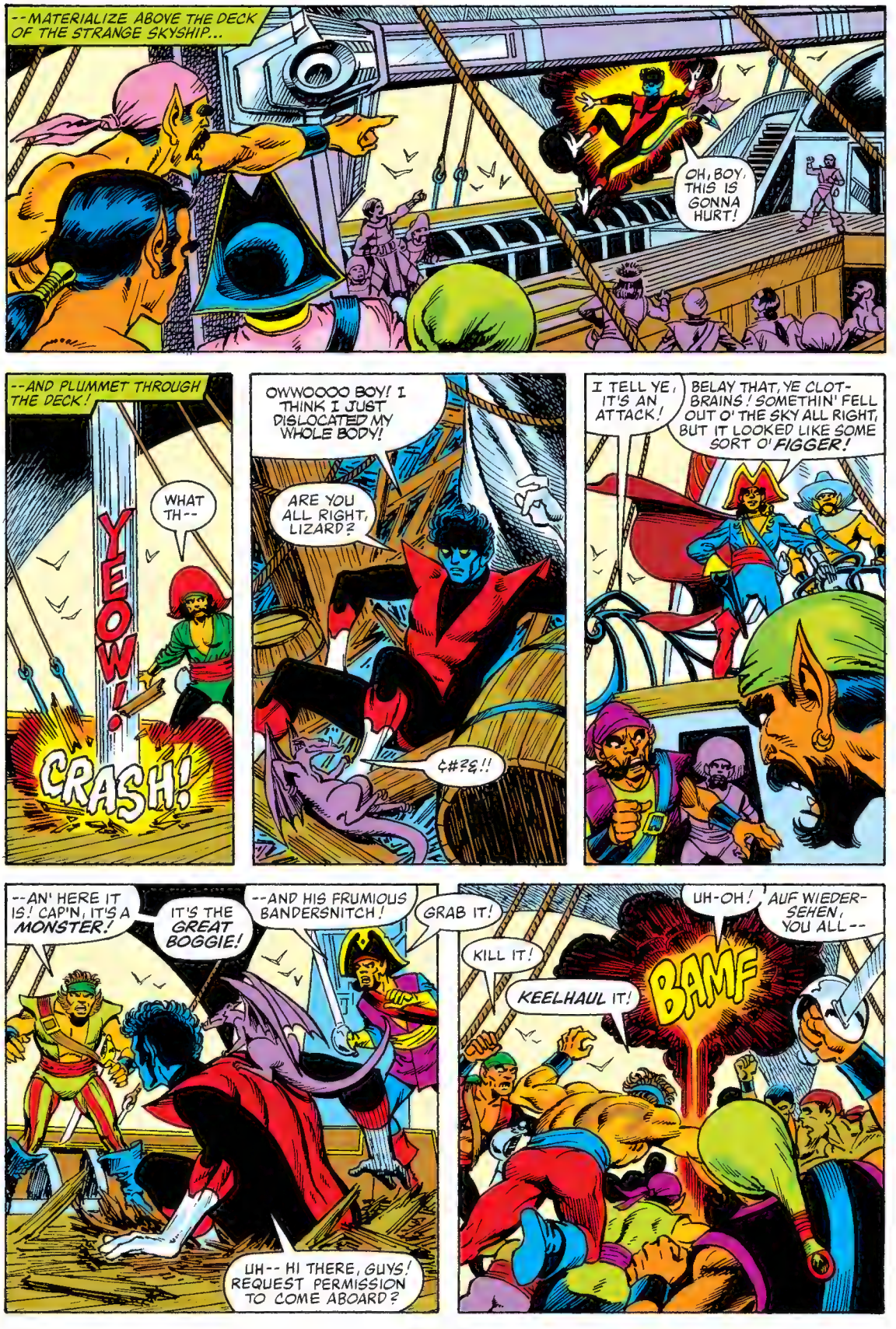

I WONDER IF I CAN PROGRAM THE DANGER ROOM TO SHOW US A SIMULACRUM OF THE WELL? DESCRIBE IT FOR ME, KURT--
--OH, BOY! IS THIS GREAT!
FOLLOWING KURT'S DESCRIPTION, KITTY'S NIMBLE FINGERS PUNCH OUT ONE COMBINATION AFTER ANOTHER ON THE CONSOLE--
YEAH, THAT'S IT! I THINK I'M GETTING IT!
--WHILE BELOW, IN THE DANGER ROOM, STRANGE SWIRLING ENERGIES BEGIN TO TAKE SHAPE.
AND FINALLY--
WOW! IS THAT IT? I DID IT! AREN'T I GREAT? LET'S GO DOWN AND SEE IT! HOT DOG!
UNGLAUBLICH!
PRYDE, SOMETIMES YOU'RE SO PRICELESS--
SHORTLY, DOWN IN THE DANGER ROOM...
SO THAT'S IT, HUH? WOW! SURE LOOKS CREEPY!
SURE LOOKS REAL, TOO!
SUDDENLY--
SAY, WHAT-- LOCKHEED!
GNARF!
WHAT ARE YOU--OH, NO!
THE LITTLE DRAGON RECOILS IN ALARM AS AN ALL-TOO-SOLID TENTACLE WHIPS OUT OF THE WELL AND GRABS HIM--
--AND BEGINS PULLING HIM IN!

KURT! OH, NO! THAT THING'S REAL!
STAY BACK, KATZCHEN, I'LL GET LOCKHEED!
IT'S PULLING HIM DOWN INTO THE WELL!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT SOMEHOW YOU'VE MATERIALIZED THE REAL WELL AT THE CENTER OF TIME!
THROWING CAUTION TO THE WIND, THE GERMAN-BORN MUTANT LEAPS HEADLONG INTO THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL "RABBIT-HOLE"--
THIS MAY BE ONE OF THE STUPIDEST THINGS I'VE EVER DONE!
I'VE GOT TO GRAB LOCKHEED AND THEN 'PORT THE TWO OF US OUT AGAIN--
--IF I CAN GET HIM LOOSE.
ACH!
OH! WHAT'S THAT LIGHT? KITTY, GET BACK!
OH, NO-- ILLYANA! I THINK--
--THE WELL! IT'S COLLAPSING!
OH, NO!

DIES IST UNMÖGLICH!
YAH!

UNGLAUBLICH! WE'RE MILES HIGH OVER SOME ALIEN LANDSCAPE, CAPTURED BY SOME GASBAG-SQUID-THING!
BAMF
FIRST THING IS TO MOVE--
--TO A BETTER LOCATION!
I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE GROUND. EXCEPT FOR A FEW MOUNTAIN PEAKS, THERE'S NOTHING BUT CLOUD COVER. AND HOW DO WE GET DOWN THERE?
THIS VARMINT'S COVERED BY A SLIPPERY COATING THAT I CAN'T SEEM TO GRIP TO. I'D BETTER WATCH MY STEP.
I HOPE KITTY AND ILLYANA ARE OKAY. THEY'LL BE WORRIED; HOW ARE WE GONNA GET BACK HOME?
MEANWHILE, LOCKHEED DEALS WITH HIS PROBLEM--
--IN HIS OWN UNIQUE STYLE--
HAH!
--AND THEN DEMONSTRATES HIS DISPLEASURE, RIGHT IN THE SQUID-THING'S FACE!
THE RESULTS ARE SPECTACULAR.
KOFF!
SHOOOSSH!
YEEOW!


OH, FOR PETE'S SAKE!
LOCKHEED, YOU BOZO! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW? TAKE FLYING LESSONS?
LOCKHEED HAS AN IDEA OF HIS OWN...
YEEOWCH!
DON'T GET SO BLASTED PERSONAL, YOU CRAZY BESCHWINGT SCHLANGE!
UNGH!
AND ANYWAY, THIS WON'T WORK--I WEIGH THREE OR FOUR TIMES WHAT YOU DO!
THIS IS NO GOOD--WE'VE GOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING EL--HEY! LOOK THERE!
ES IST EIN SEGELBOOT-- A SAILING SHIP IN THE SKY!
IN AN INSTANT, THE BLUE-SKINNED MUTANT AND HIS SCALY PASSENGER TELEPORT ACROSS THE INTERVENING AIRSPACE--


--MATERIALIZE ABOVE THE DECK OF THE STRANGE SKYSHIP...
OH, BOY, THIS IS GONNA HURT!
--AND PLUMMET THROUGH THE DECK!
WHAT TH--
YEOW!
CRASH!
OWWOOOO BOY! I THINK I JUST DISLOCATED MY WHOLE BODY!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, LIZARD?
¢#?$!!
I TELL YE, IT'S AN ATTACK!
BELAY THAT, YE CLOT-BRAINS! SOMETHIN' FELL OUT O' THE SKY ALL RIGHT, BUT IT LOOKED LIKE SOME SORT O' FIGGER!
--AN' HERE IT IS! CAP'N, IT'S A MONSTER!
IT'S THE GREAT BOGGIE!
--AND HIS FRUMIOUS BANDERSNITCH!
UH-- HI THERE, GUYS! REQUEST PERMISSION TO COME ABOARD?
GRAB IT!
KILL IT!
KEELHAUL IT!
UH-OH!
AUF WIEDER-SEHEN, YOU ALL--
BAMF

BAM!
BAM!
LOOK OUT!
YEEOW!
GET THE BOGGIE!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS. ALL I WANT IS A RIDE--
BOO!
YAAAH!
MAYBE IF I GO FOR THE HIGH GROUND--
OR-- WHOOPS!
AVAST THERE, BOGGIE--HEAVE TO AND STRIKE Y'R COLORS, OR I'LL PERFORATE Y'R GIZZARD! YE HAVE THE WORD O' LONG JOHN McGURK!
LET'S GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT, I AM NOT A BOGGIE!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT A BOGGIE IS! I'VE BEEN DRAGGED THROUGH A DIMENSIONAL PORTAL TO WHO-KNOWS-WHERE, ATTACKED BY A FLYING SQUID, AND CRASH-LANDED INTO THIS MADHOUSE!
NOW WILL SOMEBODY PLEASE TELL ME WHERE I AM?
AYE, LADDIE--I HEARD O' THINGS LIKE THIS BEFORE. YE CAME FROM ANOTHER WORLD, THROUGH A HOLE IN THE SKY? WELL, LADDIE, YE FELL ABOARD THE SKY ROVER T'AI JAVINEE. I BE CAP'N LONG JOHN McGURK, AN' THIS BE WHAT PASSES F'R A CREW THESE DAYS.
HOW BE YE CALLED, BOGGIE--AHH, LADDIE?
MY REAL NAME'S KURT WAGNER, BUT MOST PEOPLE CALL ME NIGHTCRAWLER!
AYE, I'M NOT SURPRISED. WELL, WHAT CAN YE DO? ARE YE WORTH KEEPING ON MY SHIP?
I KNOW A BIT ABOUT SAILING--A WATER SHIP, THAT IS--I'M PRETTY GOOD WITH A BLADE, I HAVE SOME MEDICAL SKILLS, AND I CAN DO ODD JOBS AND PARLOR TRICKS.
WE C'D SIGN 'IM ON AS SHIP'S BOGGIE--
GIVE IT A REST, BLACKKNOB!

MEANWHILE, AT THE DANGER ROOM CONSOLE...
OH, GOSH--PROFESSOR X IS GONNA KILL ME THIS TIME! I CAN'T BELIEVE I LOST KURT AND POOR LOCKHEED IN A DIMENSIONAL WARP!
"POOR LOCKHEED" GOT HIM-SELF IN IT, AS I RECALL, AND YOU HAD NO REASON TO BE-LIEVE YOU COULD ACTUALLY CREATE THE REAL WELL, ANY-WAY. IT'S HARDLY YOUR FAULT.
BUT I'VE GOT TO GET IT BACK, ILLYANA! I'VE GOT TO RECREATE THE SAME CONDITIONS, THE SAME READINGS ON THE BOARD, AND MAYBE I CAN PULL THEM BACK!
WHAT CAN I DO, KITTY?
CROSS YOUR FINGERS --AND YOUR TOES, TOO!
TIME FLOWS AT DIFFERENT RATES FROM ONE DIMENSION TO ANOTHER. TO KITTY AND ILLYANA, KURT HAS ONLY BEEN GONE A FEW MOMENTS. KURT, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN ABOARD THE T'AI JAVINEE FOR A WEEK AND IS SLOWLY BEING ACCEPTED AS ONE OF THE CREW...
'OO DEALT THIS MESS ?
TH' BLARSTED BOGGIE DONE IT. ANTE UP.
THIS 'ERE GAME 'E'S TAUGHT US, THIS 'ERE POKER, IS A DEVIL'S GAME; OR MY GRANNY AIN'T BEARDED.
JUST A GAME OF SKILL, MY LADS. READ 'EM AND WEEP!
BOGGIE OR NOT, 'EE'S TOO FLIPPIN' LUCKY! 'EE'S WON EVER' BODY'S BACK WAGES!
AYE! I CALLS F'R A CHANGE O' GAMES!
JUST THEN THE LOOKOUT'S CALL INTERRUPTS WHAT MIGHT HAVE BECOME A NASTY SCENE...
HYEE! ON DECK!
A SAIL, THREE POINTS TO STARBOARD! ROYAL BARGE O' BEL AMEE' ANORA!

THE POKER GAME IS FORGOTTEN AS THE MOTLEY CREW EXPLODES INTO ACTION...
ALL HANDS TO BATTLE STATIONS! WE'VE A FAT BIRD ALL READY F'R PLUCKIN'!
--VAS IST?
MOVE IT, YE SKY-DOGS!
HAUL IN TH' SHEETS AN' CLEAR AWAY TH' SAILING GEAR!
ALL BATTERIES MANNED AND ARMED!
STAND BY FOR MANEUVERS ON AUXILIARY POWER!
AHRRR! STAND READY, ME LADS! BY THE PENNANTS SHE'S FLYING, THERE'S A MEMBER O' THE ROYAL FAMILY ABOARD!
CLEARING FOR ACTION, T'AI JAVINEE MOVES TO INTERCEPT THE STRANGER...
BRING ALL GUNS T'BEAR!
"BRING ALL GUNS TO BEAR?!" HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
THIS IS GETTING SERIOUS. THEY REALLY MEAN TO ATTACK THAT OTHER SHIP!
SHOCK CANNON MANNED AND READY!
A ROYAL RANSOM! WE'LL BE DIGGIN' INTO A RICH DIVVY, OR I'M A CODFISH!
AYE! WE'RE IN LUCK THIS TIME.
AHOY THE BARGE! HEAVE TO
STRIKE Y'R COLORS AN' HEAVE TO, OR WE'LL OPEN FIRE!

THE ANSWER IS TERSE AND TO THE POINT...
A SHOT ACROSS OUR BOW! SO IT'S T'BE A FIGHT, THEN!
LET 'EM HAVE IT, ME HEARTIES! GIVE 'EM A BROADSIDE!
POUR IT TO 'EM!
BROADSIDE AFTER BROADSIDE OF WITHERING FIRE RAKES THE ROYAL BARGE, SHATTERING ITS DEFENSIVE WEAPONRY AND RIPPING INTO ITS HULL...
ACH, NO! THIS IS TERRIBLE!
UP TO NOW THIS HAS BEEN LIKE A GREAT GAME, SAILING THE SKIES WITH A MERRY CREW--LIKE ERROL FLYNN IN THE SEA HAWK OR CAPTAIN BLOOD...
--BUT SUDDENLY IT'S NOT A GAME ANY MORE! THERE ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE OVER THERE, BEING KILLED OR MAIMED--AND I'M HERE WITH THE BAD GUYS!
I HAVE TO STOP THIS!

HERR KAPITÄN, STOP! THIS IS WRONG! YOU MUST CALL OFF THIS ATTACK! LET THAT SHIP GO!
WHAT THE DEVIL-- ARE YE MAD?
UNHAND ME, YE BOGGIE FOOL!
LAY HANDS ON ME AGAIN, BY THUNDER, AN' I'LL HAVE YE THROWN OVER THE SIDE!
UNFF!
NOW HEAR ME, BOGGIE--RAIDIN' SHIPS IS OUR BUSINESS! THAT BUM-BOAT IS A FAT PRIZE AND WE AIN'T LETTIN' IT SLIP AWAY!
WHEN YE SIGNED ABOARD, YE AGREED TO BECOME ONE O' US, YE AGREED TO OBEY ORDERS AN' SHIP'S DISCIPLINE.
WELL, THIS IS AN ORDER! GET BACK TO Y'R STATION, OR BY TH' GODS I'LL RUN YE THROUGH!
NOW! MOVE!
BAMF
OH, I'LL MOVE, ALL RIGHT--
--AND HE DOES!
YEEOW!
WHOOOF!
NOW THEN, HERR KAPITÄN McGURK; I HAVE AN ARGUMENT HERE THAT MAY JUST CHANGE YOUR MIND!
"RUN ME THROUGH", HUH? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

POM!
LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU GET ALONG WITHOUT YOUR MAIN MAST, HERR KAPITÄN!
YIII! LOOK OUT!
SHRAAK
WHAT IN BLAZES--IT'S TH' BOGGIE!
LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT, HERR KAPITÄN! WHATEVER A BOGGIE IS, I'M NOT ONE!
NOW, BREAK OFF THIS ATTACK!
NO! BLAST YE! I TOLD YE--
SHUDDUP, McGURK!
I'M TELLING YOU! BREAK OFF! COME ABOUT!
CALL IT OFF, OR I'LL PUT A SHOT THROUGH HER MAGAZINE!
--AND IF YOU THINK I'M BLUFFING, JUST TRY ME.
ALL RIGHT, YE BLASTED BOGGIE--
--YE WIN, F'R NOW.
SLOWLY, THE DISABLED SKY ROVER SWINGS ABOUT AND WITHDRAWS FROM THE SCENE OF BATTLE...
...WHILE ITS VICTIM MAKES A BREAK FOR SAFETY AS ITS CREW ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL THE FIRES RAGING ABOARD...

SEHR GUT, HERR KAPITÄN, NOW I'M GOING TO LEAVE THE SHIP. IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF RENEWING THE ATTACK, HOWEVER, JUST REMEMBER--I CAN COME BACK AND CAUSE YOU WORSE DAMAGE...
BLAST YE, BOGGIE--
--THERE BE NO PLACE IN THIS WORLD WHERE YE C'N HIDE FROM US!
ALL RIGHT, YE LUBBERS--GET STARTED ON REPAIRS!
BAMF
NAVIGATOR! LAY IN A COURSE F'R BEL AMEE'ANORA! THAT BOGGIE'S NOT SEEN TH' LAST O' US!
MEANWHILE, AS KURT "BAMFS" ABOARD THE RETREATING ROYAL BARGE...
REPORT, CENTURION!
THE FIRES ARE UNDER CONTROL, CAPTAIN, AND REPAIRS HAVE BEEN--GREAT SKY GODS!
IT'S A BOGGIE!
--AND HIS FRUMIOUS BANDERSNITCH!
MEIN GOTT, HERE WE GO AGAIN!
WAIT, CAPTAIN! I'M NOT A BOGGIE! LET ME EXPLAIN--
KURT QUICKLY EXPLAINS HOW HE CAME TO BE ABOARD THE SKY ROVER, AND HOW HE STOPPED ITS ATTACK UPON THE ROYAL BARGE...
--AND SO YOU SEE, CAPTAIN, I'M A CASTAWAY OF SORTS...
ALL I NEED FROM YOU IS A RIDE TO YOUR HOME PORT.
I NEED A PLACE I CAN STAY AT UNTIL I FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET--
♫ OH, CAPTAIN... ♫
--HOME.
COOOO!
YOU SAID IT!

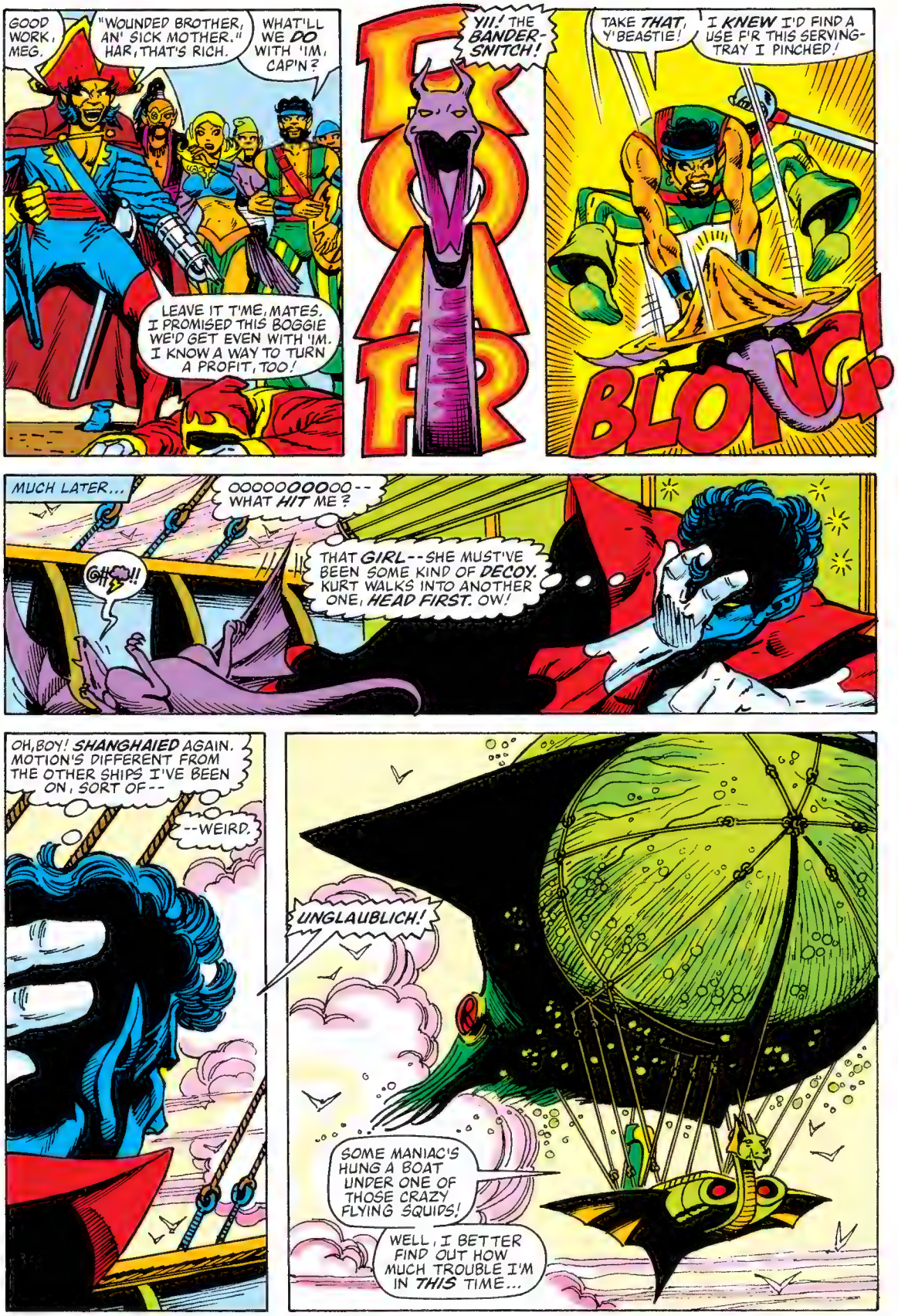
I SEE THE DANGER SEEMS TO BE OVER, CAPTAIN!
HOW SOON MAY WE CONTINUE ON TO BEL AMEE' ANORA?
JINJAV SABREE, I--
JINJAV-- THAT'S LIKE A PRINCESS!
OHH!
AH, BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS. ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF; MY NAME IS KURT WAGNER.
SPOING
MAY I OFFER MY SERVICES--EH?
BACK, OUTLANDER! NONE MAY APPROACH THE JINJAV UNBIDDEN!
COME AWAY, JINJAV, AT ONCE!
B-BUT--
BUT--C'MON! WHAT TH'--
YOU SAY YOU'RE NOT A BOGGIE, AND PERHAPS IT IS TRUE. BUT YOU LOOK LIKE ONE, AND NO JINJAV EVER HAD AUGHT TO DO WITH A BOGGIE IF SHE COULD HELP IT.
YOU MAY RIDE UP FORWARD; WE'LL BE DOCKING IN A FEW HOURS. BUT YOU MAY NOT SPEAK TO THE JINJAV.
AND SO--
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! CONDEMNED AS A BOGGIE, AND NOBODY WILL TELL ME WHAT A BOGGIE IS!
I SAVE THEM FROM THE PIRATES, AND WHAT THANKS DO I GET?
"ICK! IT'S A BOGGIE!"
BAH!

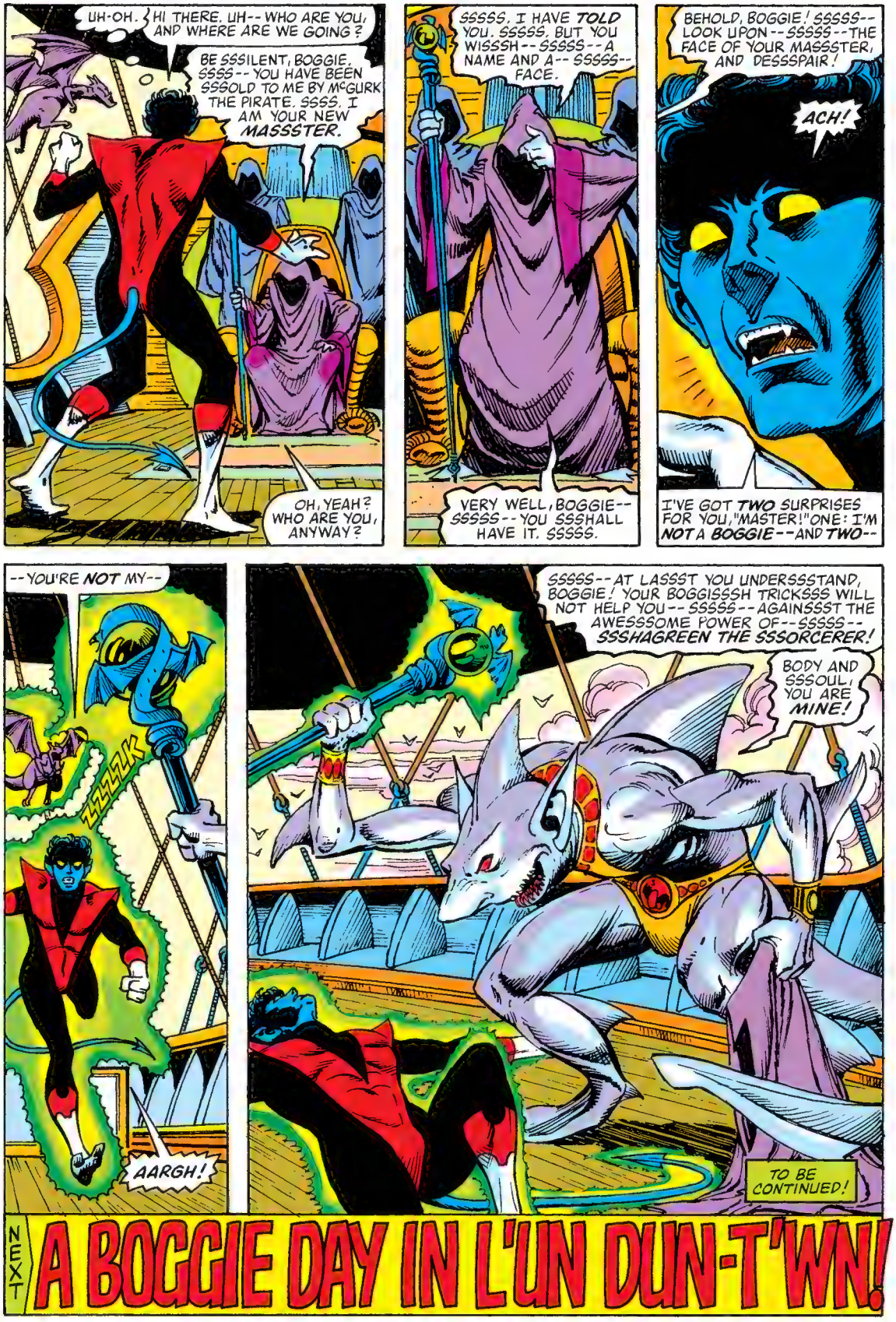
AND SO, A FEW HOURS LATER...
BEL AMEE' ANORA!
FANTASTISCH! AN ENTIRE CITY FLOATING IN THE SKY!
WHAT MARVELOUS PEOPLE MUST LIVE HERE! IT'S LIKE A CITY IN A FAIRY TALE!
MINUTES LATER THE GREAT SHIP SLIDES INTO HER BERTH AS LESSER ESCORT CRAFT HOVER ABOUT HER...

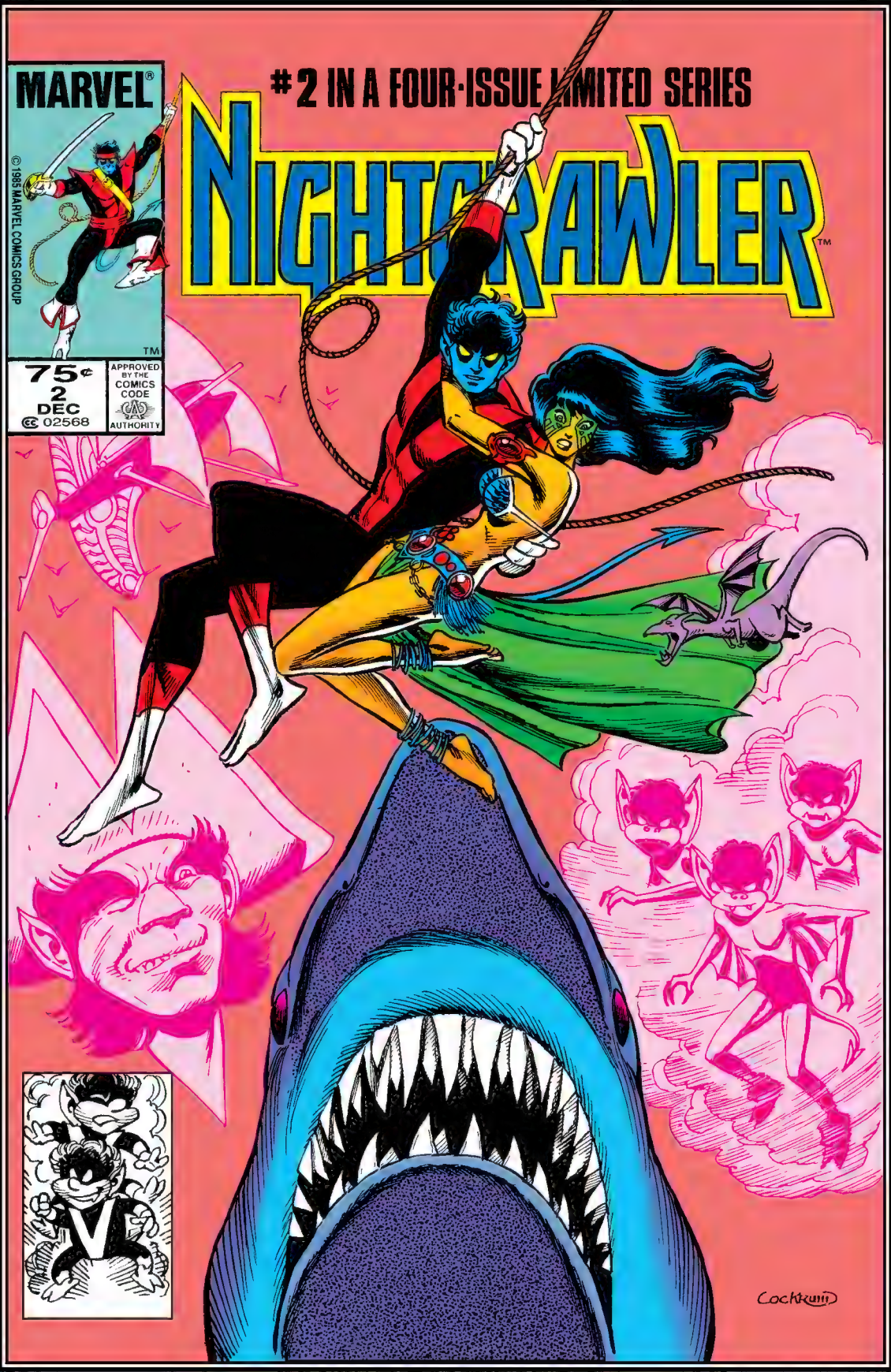
AHA! LOOK THERE! THE PRINCESS AND HER PARTY HAVE LEFT THE SHIP!
THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE TO STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT.
WHAT--?
LOOK OUT!
'TIS THE BOGGIE!
PRINCESS, PLEASE LET ME EXPLAIN-- I'M NOT A BOGGIE! I'M JUST A TRAVELLER WHO'S LOST HIS WAY!
I FOILED THE PIRATE ATTACK, AND NOW I ONLY WISH TO BE OF FURTHER SERVICE--
SHARMOND, THORFAN, TAKE THE JINJAV AWAY!
STAND AWAY, OUTLANDER. IT IS FORBIDDEN FOR YOU TO APPROACH!
B-BUT-- I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M NOT AN ENEMY!
I SAVED YOUR SHIP FROM DESTRUCTION. I SAVED ALL OF YOU. DOESN'T THAT ENTITLE ME TO SOME CONSIDERATION?
I AM LORD CHAMBERLAIN OF BEL AMEE' ANORA. LEST YOU THINK US UNGRATEFUL, I OFFER YOU GOLD IN COMPENSATION FOR YOUR PART IN TURNING AWAY THE PIRATES.
ACCEPT THIS MOST GENEROUS PAYMENT; WE HAVE NO FURTHER NEED OF YOUR SERVICES.
PAYMENT?!
WHAT IN--?
SMEK!
YOU MAY HAVE YOUR PRICE, LORD CHAMBERLAIN, BUT I DO NOT! I GIVE MY LOYALTIES; I DO NOT SELL THEM!
TO BLAZES WITH YOUR GOLD, SIR--
--AND TO BLAZES WITH YOU!
LORD CHAMBERLAIN! CAPTAIN! THE JINJAV IS ABDUCTED!
AS WE TOOK HER FROM THE WHARF, A GROUP OF HOODED MEN ATTACKED US! ALL BUT MYSELF WERE SLAIN!
BAMF
BY THE GODS, WE MUST BEGIN A SEARCH AT ONCE!

A COUPLE OF SHORT, LINE-OF-SIGHT BAMFS LATER...
HEY, IT'S SOME KIND OF LOCAL BAZAAR. MAYBE SOMEBODY HERE WILL T--
OH, NO!
AYEE! LOOK!
IT'S A BOGGIE!
--AND HIS FRUMIOUS BANDER-SNITCH!
SHOULDN'T THAT BE BANDER-SNATCH?
NOPE-- TOO SMALL.
CATCH IT!
OH--
--FOR HEAVEN'S--
RUN AWAY FROM IT!
EEK!
KILL IT!
--SAKE!
WELL, THAT WAS PRETTY STUPID. ALL I DID WAS STIR THINGS UP.
WHATEVER A BOGGIE IS, HE MUST BE BLUE OR HAVE A TAIL OR COME AND GO IN A PUFF OF SMOKE OR SOMETHING.
WHATEVER, THEY ALL THINK I'M ONE. IF I'M GOING TO MOVE AROUND WITHOUT BEING MOBBED, I'VE GOT TO BE LESS CONSPICUOUS.
--AND THERE'S JUST WHAT I NEED.

AND SO...
MAYBE IF I TOLD EVERYBODY THAT I FELL IN A RICEPICKER WHEN I WAS A CHILD...
NO, IT DIDN'T WORK FOR SPOCK, EITHER.
THIS IS SERIOUS. I DON'T FIT IN HERE--BUT HOW CAN I EVER GO HOME AGAIN?
I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW KITTY MATERIALIZED THE WELL AT THE CE--
LOCKHEED!
IF YOU DON'T GET YOUR TAIL OUT OF MY FACE, I'M GOING TO BITE IT OFF!
SUDDENLY--
WHAT--?
HELP! OH, PLEASE HELP ME, GOOD SIR!
MY BROTHER AND I WERE SET UPON BY BRIGANDS! MY BROTHER RESISTED AND RECEIVED A FEARFUL WOUND IN THE STRUGGLE. I FEAR HE MAY DIE.
WHERE DID THIS HAPPEN?
THROUGH THIS PASSAGE AND AROUND THE CORNER. OH, PLEASE HURRY!
THIS IS A VERY LONG, DARK ALLEY. WHAT WERE YOU AND YOUR BROTHER DOING HERE?
WE WERE HURRYING HOME TO OUR MOTHER, WHO IS VERY ILL. WE TOOK A SHORTCUT THROUGH THIS PASSAGEWAY, WHERE THE BRIGANDS WAYLAID US.
--BUT WHERE IS YOUR BROTHER?
KLUD!
--RIGHT HERE, BOGGIE! HAR HAR!


GOOD WORK, MEG.
"WOUNDED BROTHER, AN' SICK MOTHER." HAR, THAT'S RICH.
WHAT'LL WE DO WITH 'IM, CAP'N?
LEAVE IT T'ME, MATES. I PROMISED THIS BOGGIE WE'D GET EVEN WITH 'IM. I KNOW A WAY TO TURN A PROFIT, TOO!
YII! THE BANDER-SNITCH!
TAKE THAT, Y'BEASTIE!
I KNEW I'D FIND A USE F'R THIS SERVING-TRAY I PINCHED!
BLONG!
MUCH LATER...
OOOOOOOOO-- WHAT HIT ME?
GH!!
THAT GIRL--SHE MUST'VE BEEN SOME KIND OF DECOY. KURT WALKS INTO ANOTHER ONE, HEAD FIRST. OW!
OH, BOY! SHANGHAIED AGAIN. MOTION'S DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER SHIPS I'VE BEEN ON, SORT OF--
--WEIRD.
UNGLAUBLICH!
SOME MANIAC'S HUNG A BOAT UNDER ONE OF THOSE CRAZY FLYING SQUIDS!
WELL, I BETTER FIND OUT HOW MUCH TROUBLE I'M IN THIS TIME...


UH-OH.
HI THERE. UH-- WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?
BE SSSILENT, BOGGIE. SSSS-- YOU HAVE BEEN SSSOLD TO ME BY McGURK THE PIRATE. SSSS. I AM YOUR NEW MASSSTER.
OH, YEAH? WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
SSSSS, I HAVE TOLD YOU. SSSSS. BUT YOU WISSSH-- SSSSS-- A NAME AND A-- SSSSS-- FACE.
VERY WELL, BOGGIE-- SSSSS-- YOU SSSHALL HAVE IT. SSSSS.
BEHOLD, BOGGIE! SSSSS-- LOOK UPON-- SSSSS-- THE FACE OF YOUR MASSSTER, AND DESSSPAIR!
ACH!
I'VE GOT TWO SURPRISES FOR YOU, "MASTER!" ONE: I'M NOT A BOGGIE-- AND TWO--
--YOU'RE NOT MY--
ZZZZK
AARGH!
SSSSS-- AT LASSST YOU UNDERSSSTAND, BOGGIE! YOUR BOGGISSSH TRICKSSS WILL NOT HELP YOU-- SSSSS-- AGAINSSST THE AWESSSOME POWER OF-- SSSSS-- SSSHAGREEN THE SSSORCERER!
BODY AND SSSOUL, YOU ARE MINE!
TO BE CONTINUED!
NEXT
A BOGGIE DAY IN L'UN DUN-T'WN!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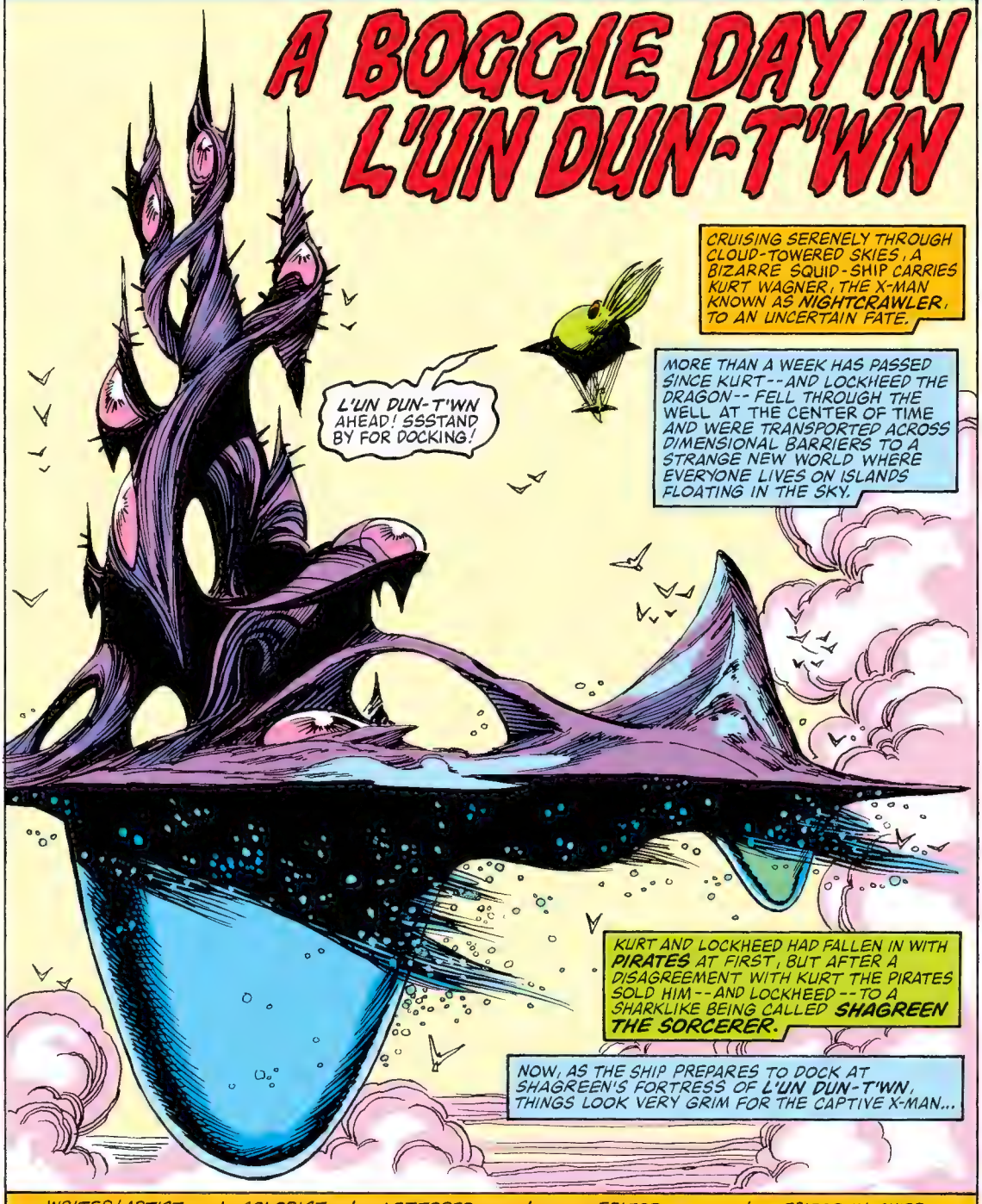
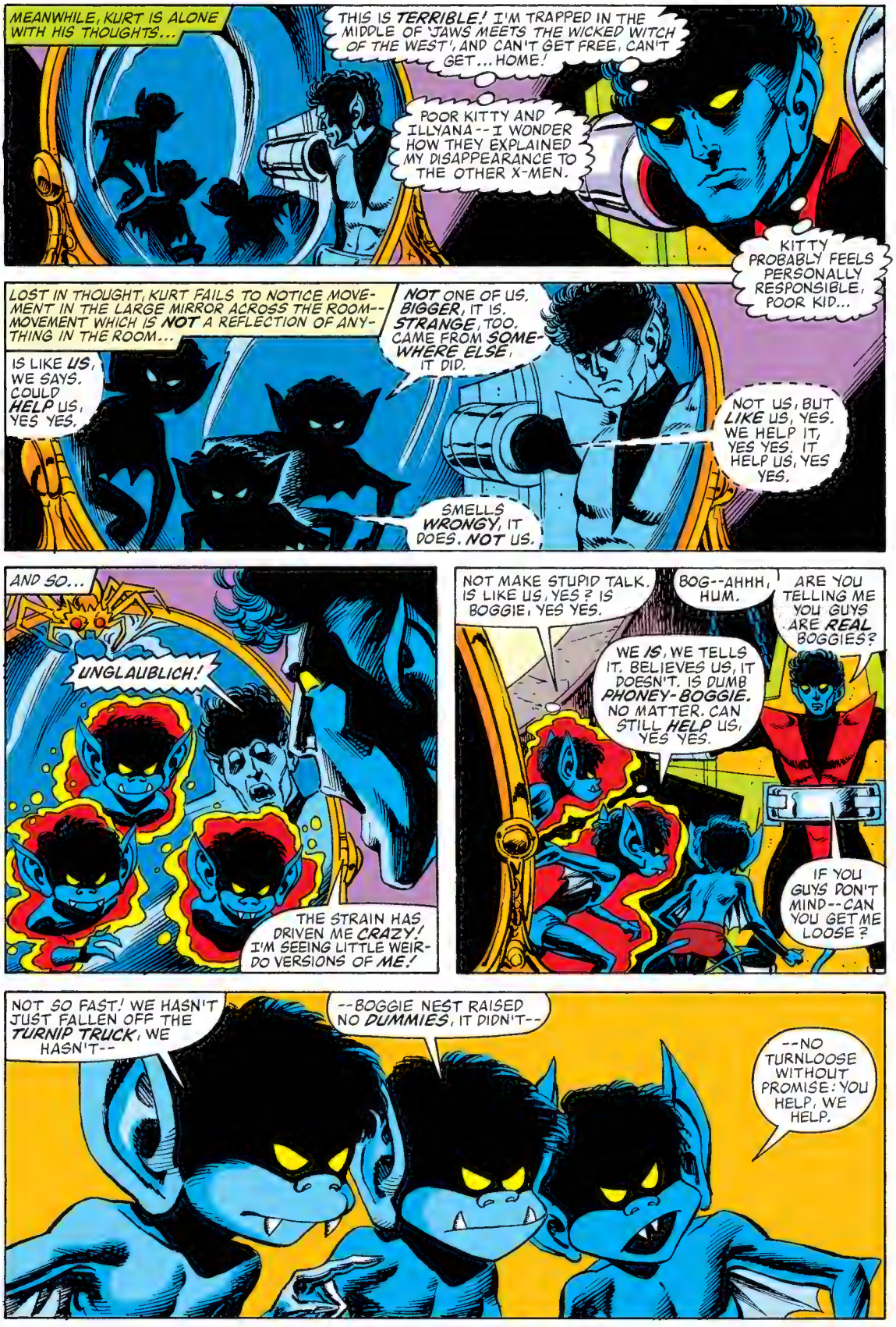
A BOGGIE DAY IN L'UN DUN-T'WN


CRUISING SERENELY THROUGH CLOUD-TOWERED SKIES, A BIZARRE SQUID-SHIP CARRIES KURT WAGNER, THE X-MAN KNOWN AS NIGHTCRAWLER, TO AN UNCERTAIN FATE.
L'UN DUN-T'WN AHEAD! SSSTAND BY FOR DOCKING!
MORE THAN A WEEK HAS PASSED SINCE KURT--AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON--FELL THROUGH THE WELL AT THE CENTER OF TIME AND WERE TRANSPORTED ACROSS DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS TO A STRANGE NEW WORLD WHERE EVERYONE LIVES ON ISLANDS FLOATING IN THE SKY.
KURT AND LOCKHEED HAD FALLEN IN WITH PIRATES AT FIRST, BUT AFTER A DISAGREEMENT WITH KURT THE PIRATES SOLD HIM--AND LOCKHEED--TO A SHARKLIKE BEING CALLED SHAGREEN THE SORCERER.
NOW, AS THE SHIP PREPARES TO DOCK AT SHAGREEN'S FORTRESS OF L'UN DUN-T'WN, THINGS LOOK VERY GRIM FOR THE CAPTIVE X-MAN...

WRITER/ARTIST DAVE COCKRUM / COLORIST PATY / LETTERER JIM NOVAK / EDITOR ANN NOCENTI / EDITOR IN CHIEF JIM SHOOTER

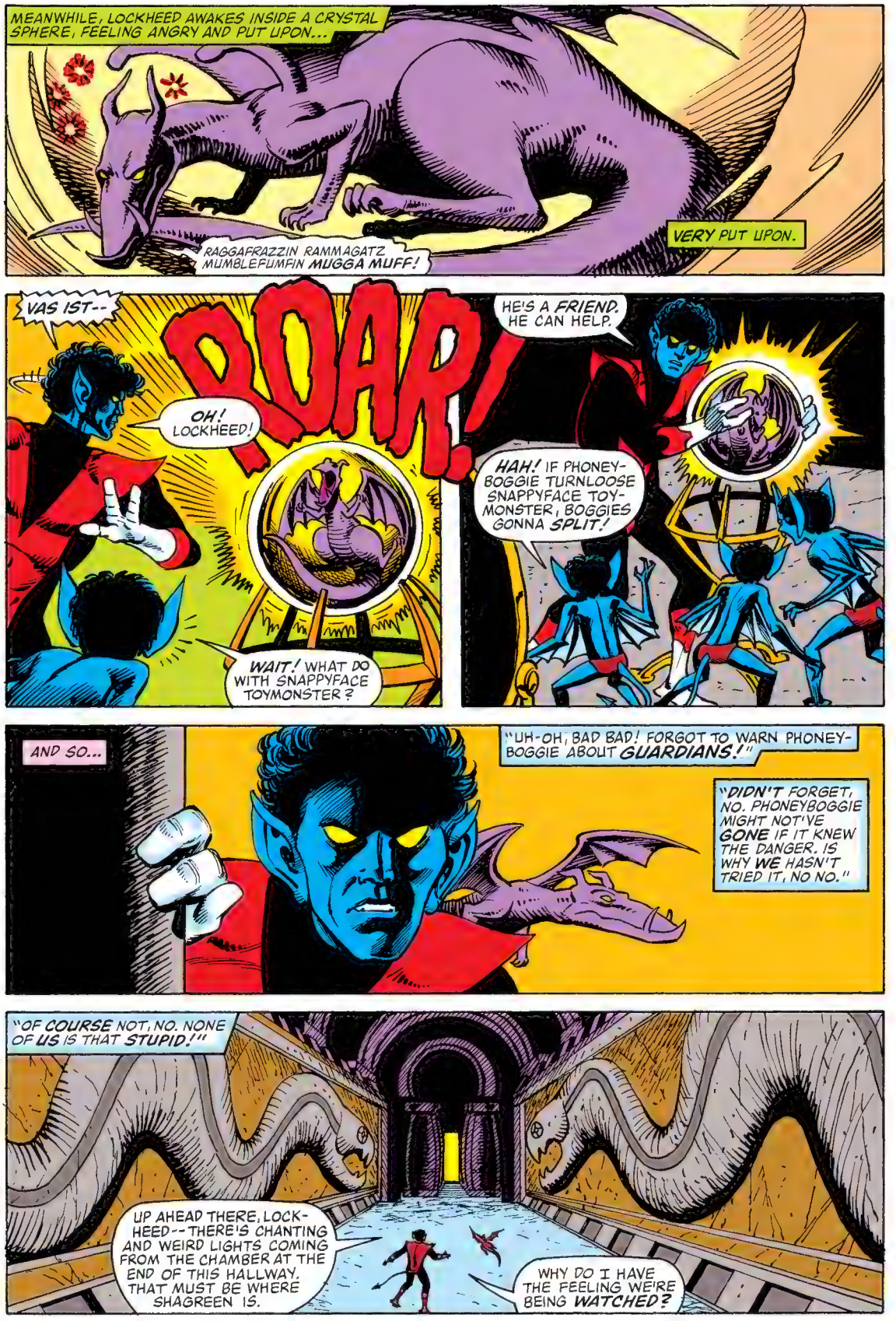
AS THE SKY-SQUID EASES INTO ITS SLIP, THE PASSENGERS PREPARE TO DISEMBARK...
TAKE THE--SSS--BOGGIE AND THE SSSMALL DRAGON TO MY SSSANCTUM AND SSSECURE THEM THERE.
SSS. WHAT OF THE OTHER MATTER?
IT IS DONE, AS YOU ORDERED. SHE AWAITS YOU IN THE GREAT CHAMBER AND ALL HAS BEEN MADE READY.
EXSSSCEL-LENT! AWAIT ME HERE!
SHORTLY...
SSS. NOW I HAVE YOU--SSS--WHERE I WANT YOU, BOGGIE.
OH, YEAH? WATCH THIS, FISHFACE!
I HAVE NO TIME--SSS--TO EXSSSAMINE YOU TODAY, BUT THISSS DEVISSSE WILL KEEP YOU NISSSCELY UNTIL SSS--TOMORROW!
POOT
'POOT'?! OH, NO! I WENT 'POOT' AND I DIDN'T TELEPORT!
WHERE'S THE BAMF?!
SSS. I KNOW NOT--SSS--WHAT YOU SSSPEAK OF, BOGGIE--BUT I HAVE LAID A SSSPELL TO PREVENT YOU--SSS--FROM DISSSAPPEARING IN A--SSS--PUFF OF SSSMOKE. HERE YOU WILL SSSTAY.
--BUT WHY? WHAT HAVE I DONE TO YOU?
WHY? SSS. YOU COSSST ME TEN THOUSSSAND GOLD PIECSSSES. I AM ENTITLED TO SSSOME RETURN ON THE INVESSSTMENT.
I AM SSSTUDYING--SSS--THE MECHANICSSS OF--SSS--TELEPORTA-TION. I SSSHALL LEARN HOW IT ISSS DONE--SSS--IF I MUSSST DISSSASSSEMBLE YOU ATOM BY--SSS--ATOM.
IF ALL ELSSSE FAILSSS--SSS--YOU'LL GO WELL WITH--SSS--GRAVY AND A NISSSCE RED WINE!

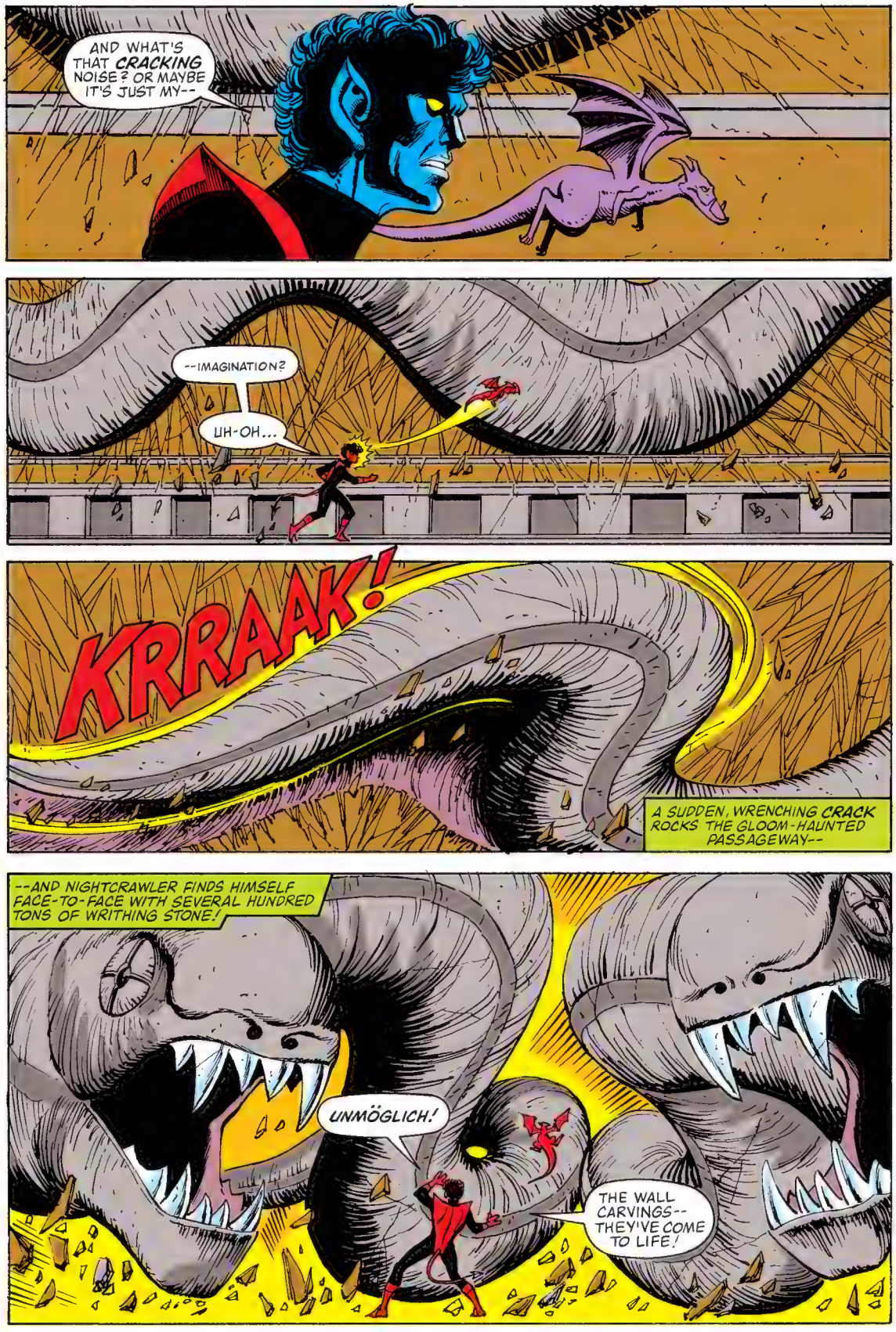
MEANWHILE, BACK ON EARTH--YOUNG X-MAN KITTY PRYDE AND HER FRIEND, THE NEW MUTANT ILLYANA RASPUTIN, WORK AT THE DANGER ROOM CONSOLE TRYING TO RESCUE KURT AND LOCKHEED.
TIME PASSES AT DIFFERENT RATES BETWEEN DIMENSIONS, AND THOUGH NIGHTCRAWLER HAS SPENT A WEEK IN ANOTHER DIMENSION, TO KITTY AND ILLYANA HE'S ONLY BEEN GONE A FEW MINUTES.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, ILLYANA --SOMEHOW THE COMPUTER IS FIGHTING ME. I CAN'T SEEM TO DUPLICATE THE SETTINGS THAT MATERIALIZED THE 'WELL AT THE CENTER OF TIME' IN THE DANGER ROOM!
IT'S LIKE SOME VARIABLE FACTOR WHICH WAS HERE THEN, HAS MOVED ELSEWHERE!
MICHAEL
YOU'D BETTER HURRY UP, KITTY-- THE LONGER WE TAKE TO FIND KURT AND LOCKHEED, THE MORE LIKELY WE'LL LOSE THEM!
TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW!
I WISH PROFESSOR XAVIER OR SOME OF THE OTHER X-MEN WERE HERE!
BUT THE YOUNG MUTANT'S WISH GOES UNHEARD, AND THE TWO GIRLS CONTINUE THEIR DESPERATE SEARCH UNAIDED...
MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE: BACK IN THE SKYWORLD, PIRATE CAPTAIN LONG JOHN McGURK AND HIS MOTLEY CREW CELEBRATE THEIR NEWFOUND RICHES WITH A LITTLE GOOD-NATURED CAROUSING...
--AN' SO TH' OL' LADY SEZ, 'NOT WI' MY DOG, YE DON'T.'!
ANYBODY FER POKER? I BE FEELIN' LUCKY T'DAY!
BELAY THAT, BLACKKNOB-- I SAW YE MARKIN' TH' BLARSTED CARDS...
HAR HAR HAR! THAT BE A GOOD 'N, SPIKENOSE!
CAP'N! I JUST FOUND OUT THE JINJAV SABREE WAS KIDNAPPED! FROM TH' DESCRIPTION O' TH' KIDNAPPERS, IT SOUNDED LIKE SHAGREEN'S HENCHMEN!
AHRRR! GOOD WORK, SLIMEY!
SO OL' SNAGGLENOSE BE FILCHIN' LADIES NOW, EH?
THIS BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY, LAD! WE'LL SAIL INTO OL' FISHFACE'S FORTRESS AN' STEAL BACK THE PRINCESS! THEN WE HOLD 'ER F'R RANSOM, OURSELVES!
HAR! WHAT AN INSP'RATION!
BACK T'THE SHIP, LADS! WE BE BOUND F'R L'UN DUN-T'WN!


MEANWHILE, KURT IS ALONE WITH HIS THOUGHTS...
THIS IS TERRIBLE! I'M TRAPPED IN THE MIDDLE OF 'JAWS MEETS THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST', AND CAN'T GET FREE, CAN'T GET... HOME!
POOR KITTY AND ILLYANA -- I WONDER HOW THEY EXPLAINED MY DISAPPEARANCE TO THE OTHER X-MEN.
KITTY PROBABLY FEELS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE, POOR KID...
LOST IN THOUGHT, KURT FAILS TO NOTICE MOVEMENT IN THE LARGE MIRROR ACROSS THE ROOM -- MOVEMENT WHICH IS NOT A REFLECTION OF ANYTHING IN THE ROOM...
IS LIKE US, WE SAYS. COULD HELP US, YES YES.
NOT ONE OF US. BIGGER, IT IS. STRANGE, TOO. CAME FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE, IT DID.
NOT US, BUT LIKE US, YES. WE HELP IT, YES YES. IT HELP US, YES YES.
SMELLS WRONGY, IT DOES. NOT US.
AND SO...
UNGLAUBLICH!
THE STRAIN HAS DRIVEN ME CRAZY! I'M SEEING LITTLE WEIRDO VERSIONS OF ME!
NOT MAKE STUPID TALK. IS LIKE US, YES? IS BOGGIE, YES YES.
BOG--AHHH, HUM.
ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU GUYS ARE REAL BOGGIES?
WE IS, WE TELLS IT. BELIEVES US, IT DOESN'T. IS DUMB PHONEY-BOGGIE. NO MATTER. CAN STILL HELP US, YES YES.
IF YOU GUYS DON'T MIND -- CAN YOU GET ME LOOSE?
NOT SO FAST! WE HASN'T JUST FALLEN OFF THE TURNIP TRUCK, WE HASN'T--
--BOGGIE NEST RAISED NO DUMMIES, IT DIDN'T--
--NO TURNLOOSE WITHOUT PROMISE: YOU HELP, WE HELP.

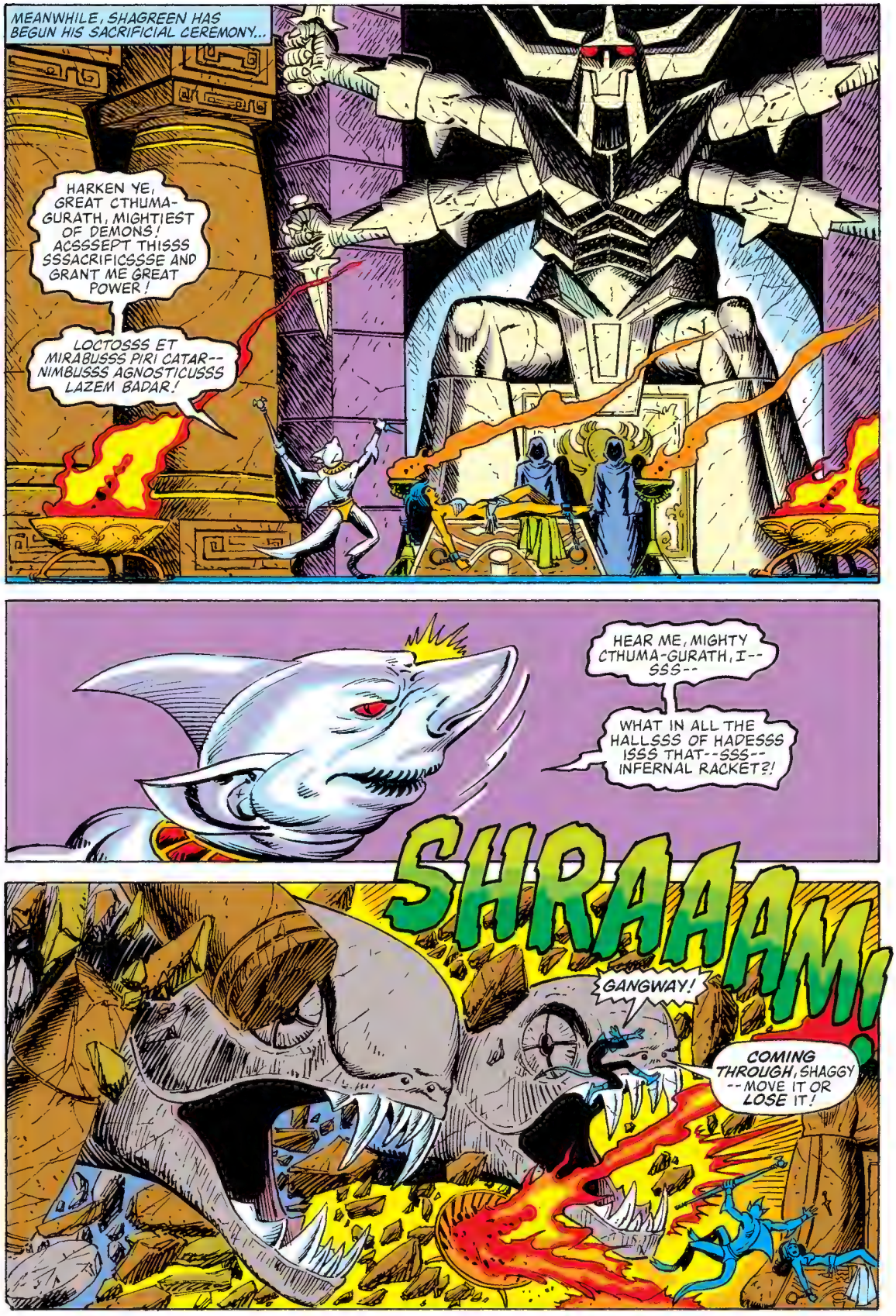
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I PROMISE! I'LL HELP, BUT YOU HAVE TO TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!
NASTYFACE SHAGREEN WANTS TO LEARN BOGGIE WAY OF COMING AND GOING IN PUFF OF SMOKE, YES. HE TRIED TO CATCH BOGGIES, MAKE THEM TEACH HIM, YES YES.
BOGGIES NOT LIKE NASTYFACE SHAGREEN, NO. NASTYFACE IS REAL CREEP, YES.
OLD SHARPYTOOTH FOUND SPELL, YES, THAT STOPS BOGGIES FROM GOING FASTPOOF.
A SPELL THAT STOPS YOU FROM TELEPORTING. YES, I KNOW. IT STOPS ME, TOO.
SHAGREEN THINKS HE CAN LEARN--
"DON'T INTERRUPT! PHONEYBOGGIE TELLING THIS? NO? THEN, CLAM UP, YES YES."
"BOGGIES VERY CURIOUS, YES. LIKE TO GO NEW PLACES, SEE NEW THINGS."
"BOGGIES FASTPOOF INTO STONEHOUSE, SECRETLY, YES. NASTYFACE NOTSEE."
BOGGIES CAME TO SEE NASTYFACE'S STONEHOUSE ON SKY ISLAND.
BUT NASTYFACE HAVE FASTPOOF STOPPY-SPELL. BOGGIES CAN'T LEAVE, NO NO. IF SHAGREEN CATCH, BOGGIES IN BIG TROUBLE, YES YES.
BOGGIES HAD TO HIDE, YES.
"FASTPOOF NOT BOGGIES' ONLY TRICK, NO. BOGGIES CAN GO INTO LOOKYGLASS, LIVE IN BACKWARD SIDE. WE HIDE, YES."
"JOKE ON NASTYFACE, YES. HE CATCH BOGGIES, BUT NOT KNOW IT, NO. LOOKYGLASS GOOD HIDE'-HOLE, BUT NOW BOGGIES WANT HOME, YES YES."
"PHONEYBOGGIE GOFIND SPELL-THING, MAKESTOP. YES?

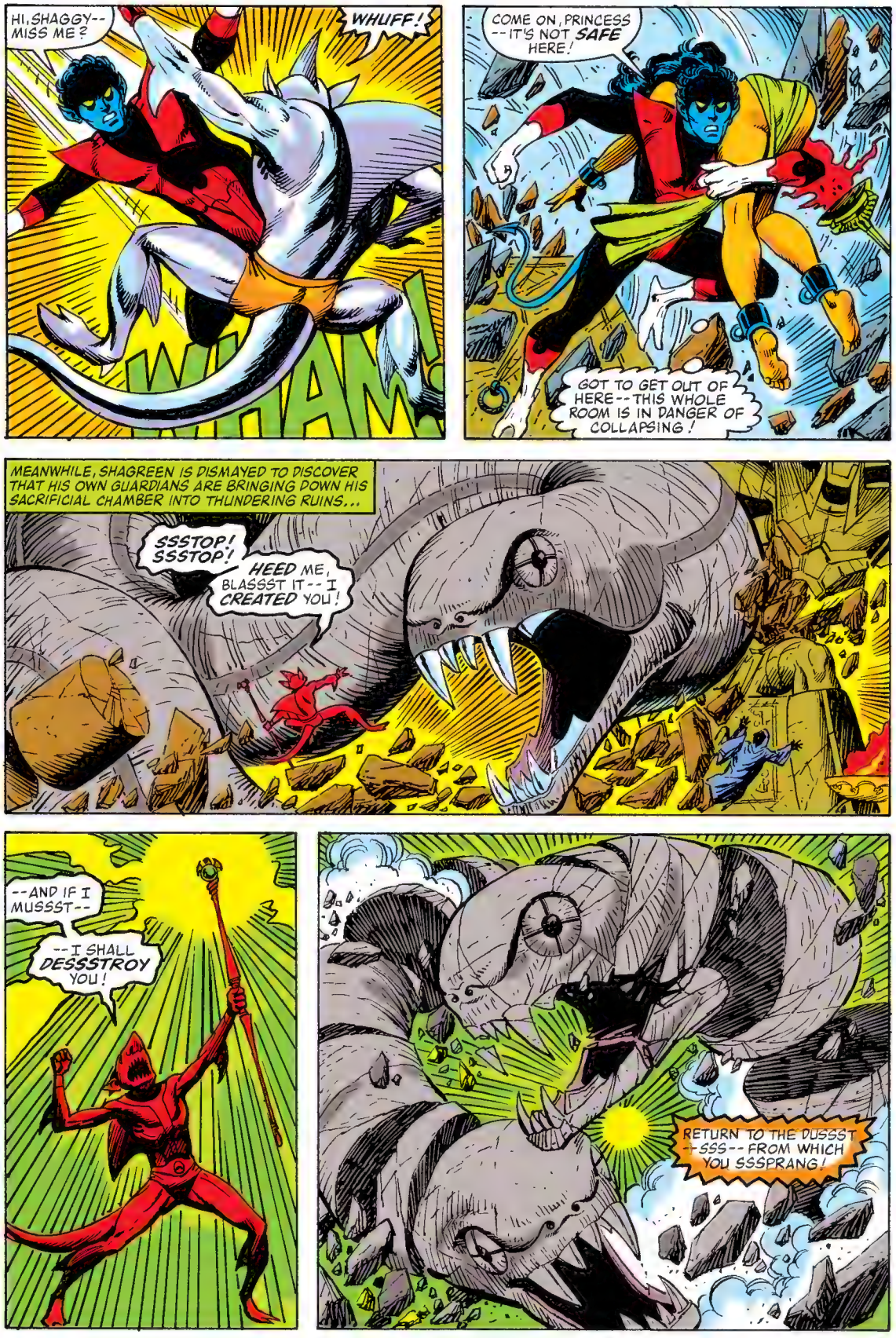
GOFIND NASTYFACE'S BIG CHARM BIGSPELL POWERTHING, YES YES. ALL SHAGREEN'S SPELLS TRAPPED IN POWERTHING. DESTROY POWERTHING; NASTYFACE ALL OUT OF MAGIC.
YOU MEAN, HE'D LOSE HIS SORCERY COMPLETELY?
NOT MEAN, DUMB PHONEY-BOGGIE! ONLY LOSE FAST-MAGIC POWER, HE WILL, YES YES.
WILL HAVE TO THINK AND SPEAKSPELL TO GET MAGIC, YES. COULD BE DISTRACTED, COULD BE BEATEN, YES YES.
IF I DESTROY SHAGREEN'S OBJECT OF POWER, ALL HIS STANDING SPELLS WILL BE DESTROYED TOO, AND HE'LL HAVE TO START FROM SCRATCH. AND IN THE MEANTIME YOU GUYS CAN GET AWAY.
WHY HAVEN'T YOU TRIED THIS YOURSELVES?
TWO REASONS, SILLY DOPE--NOT KNOW WHAT POWER-THING LOOK LIKE, NO--AND ALSO MAGIC PREVENTS BOGGIES FROM APPROACHING NASTYFACE AND POWERTHING.
THEN WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I CAN?
DUMB PHONEY-BOGGIE, NOT BE STUPID, NO NO.
PHONEYBOGGIE COME FROM NOT-HERE, YES. HAVE NOT-HERE MAGIC ON IT, IT DOES. PHONEYBOGGIE DO WHAT REAL-BOGGIE CANNOT.
AND MAYBE RESCUE PRIN-CESS, TOO.
"NASTYFACE HAVE JINJAV SABREE IN TOWER OF L'UN DUN. HE SENT HIS EMPTY MEN TO BEL AMEE ANORA TO KIDNAP PRINCESS, YES."
"ALL PRINCESS' RETAINERS KILLED, YES. EMPTY MEN BRING PRINCESS TO L'UN DUN-T'WN, YES YES."
"NASTYFACE WANT TO SACRIFICE PRINCESS TO EVIL GODS, GAIN MUCH EVILPOWER, YES."
"HE'S GOING TO SACRIFICE HER?! KILL HER?!"
"OF COURSE KILL HER, STUPID! NOT GAIN BIGMAGIC POWER BY NICEMAKING KISSYKISS! PHONEY-BOGGIE MUST HURRY, OR SSKKZZXX!"


MEANWHILE, LOCKHEED AWAKES INSIDE A CRYSTAL SPHERE, FEELING ANGRY AND PUT UPON...
RAGGAFRAZZIN RAMMAGATZ MUMBLEFUMFIN MUGGA MUFF!
VERY PUT UPON.
VAS IST--
ROAR!
OH! LOCKHEED!
WAIT! WHAT DO WITH SNAPPYFACE TOYMONSTER?
HE'S A FRIEND. HE CAN HELP.
HAH! IF PHONEY-BOGGIE TURNLOOSE SNAPPYFACE TOY-MONSTER, BOGGIES GONNA SPLIT!
AND SO...
"UH-OH, BAD BAD! FORGOT TO WARN PHONEY-BOGGIE ABOUT GUARDIANS!"
"DIDN'T FORGET, NO. PHONEYBOGGIE MIGHT NOT'VE GONE IF IT KNEW THE DANGER. IS WHY WE HASN'T TRIED IT, NO NO."
"OF COURSE NOT, NO. NONE OF US IS THAT STUPID!"
UP AHEAD THERE, LOCK-HEED--THERE'S CHANTING AND WEIRD LIGHTS COMING FROM THE CHAMBER AT THE END OF THIS HALLWAY. THAT MUST BE WHERE SHAGREEN IS.
WHY DO I HAVE THE FEELING WE'RE BEING WATCHED?


AND WHAT'S THAT CRACKING NOISE? OR MAYBE IT'S JUST MY--
--IMAGINATION?
UH-OH...
KRRAAK!
A SUDDEN, WRENCHING CRACK ROCKS THE GLOOM-HAUNTED PASSAGEWAY--
--AND NIGHTCRAWLER FINDS HIMSELF FACE-TO-FACE WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED TONS OF WRITHING STONE!
UNMÖGLICH!
THE WALL CARVINGS-- THEY'VE COME TO LIFE!

FANTASTISCH! THEY MAY BE TONS OF CARVED STONE-- BUT THEY'RE AS FAST AS LIGHTNING!
OW! THAT WAS CLOSE!
KEEP CLEAR, LOCKHEED--THEY'LL SQUASH YOU LIKE A BUG!
R-R-R-AAA
AM!
OW! CLOSE AGAIN!
THOSE ROTTEN BOGGIES--I'LL BET THEY KNEW ABOUT THESE MONSTERS!
THEY DELIBER-ATELY DIDN'T WARN ME!
MEANWHILE, LOCKHEED DISCOVERS TO HIS CHAGRIN--
--THAT DRAGONFIRE HAS VERY LITTLE EFFECT ON AN ENEMY MADE OF STONE.
KRAAASH!
ACH! THIS IS NO GOOD--
WE HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE. WE CAN'T KEEP EVADING FOREVER!
COME ON, LOCKHEED! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
LET'S SEE IF THESE THINGS WILL FOLLOW US INTO SHAGREEN'S PLAYPEN!

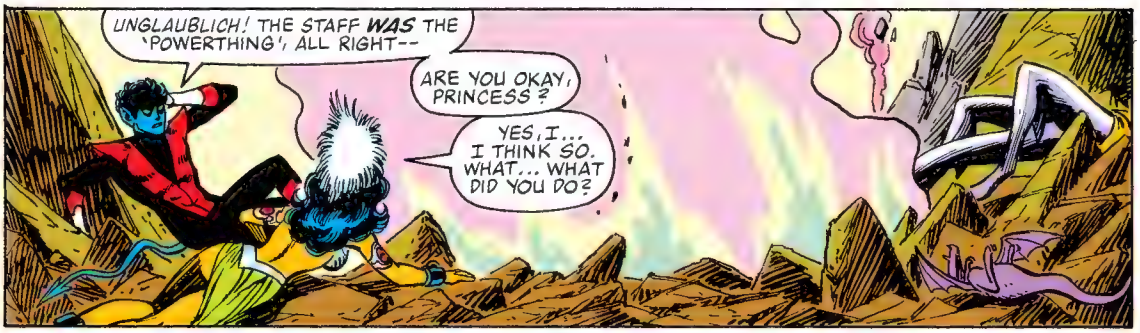

MEANWHILE, SHAGREEN HAS BEGUN HIS SACRIFICIAL CEREMONY...
HARKEN YE, GREAT CTHUMA-GURATH, MIGHTIEST OF DEMONS! ACSSSEPT THISSS SSSACRIFICSSSE AND GRANT ME GREAT POWER!
LOCTOSSS ET MIRABUSSS PIRI CATAR--NIMBUSSS AGNOSTICUSSS LAZEM BADAR!
HEAR ME, MIGHTY CTHUMA-GURATH, I--SSS--
WHAT IN ALL THE HALLSSS OF HADESSS ISSS THAT--SSS--INFERNAL RACKET?!
SHRAAAM!
GANGWAY!
COMING THROUGH, SHAGGY--MOVE IT OR LOSE IT!

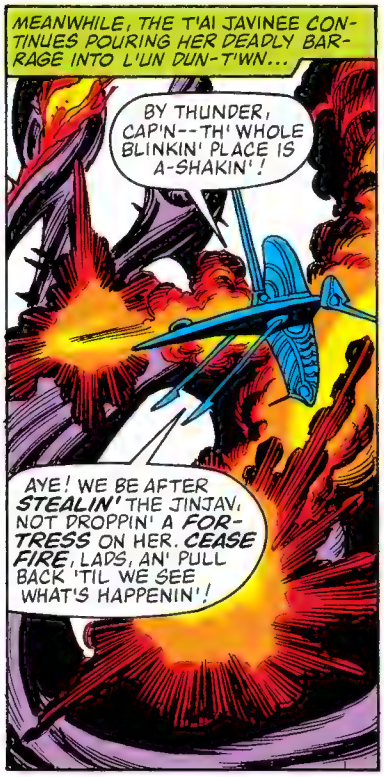

HI, SHAGGY-- MISS ME?
WHUFF!
WHAM!
COME ON, PRINCESS --IT'S NOT SAFE HERE!
GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE--THIS WHOLE ROOM IS IN DANGER OF COLLAPSING!
MEANWHILE, SHAGREEN IS DISMAYED TO DISCOVER THAT HIS OWN GUARDIANS ARE BRINGING DOWN HIS SACRIFICIAL CHAMBER INTO THUNDERING RUINS...
SSSTOP! SSSTOP!
HEED ME, BLASSST IT-- I CREATED YOU!
--AND IF I MUSSST--
--I SHALL DESSSTROY YOU!
RETURN TO THE DUSSST --SSS-- FROM WHICH YOU SSSPRANG!

AND WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...
RUINED! SSS-- ALL MY WORKS RUINED!
ALL BECAUSE OF THAT-- THAT-- BOGGIE!
I THINK I'VE OVERSTAYED MY WELCOME. THAT'S NOT A HAPPY FISHIE.
OOP-- TOO LATE.
YOU, BOGGIE! SSS! I SSSEE YOU THERE! YOU SSSHALL NOT SSSAVE THE JINJAV, AND YOU ARE GOING TO BE--SSS-- SSSORRY YOU MEDDLED HERE!
YOU ARE GOING TO BE INCREDIBLY SSSORRY!
HE'S FIRING SOME ARCANE BLAST AT ME FROM HIS STAFF--
AAARGH!
CAN'T-- MOVE!
ZAASK
YOU DARE INTERFERE WITH ME!?
SSS! YOU SSSHALL PAY DEARLY FOR THAT INTERFERENCSSSE --SSS-- WITH YOUR LIFE!
YOU SEE-- EVEN NOW MY CONSSSTRICTOR FIELD TIGHTENSSS AROUND YOU! SSSOON IT WILL CRUSSSH THE LIFE FROM YOUR CURSSSED BODY!

BUT SUDDENLY--
HYEEE!
THE WALL--BLASTING INWARD!
KRAAAAAM!
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE, THE CAVALRY SEEMS TO HAVE ARRIVED IN THE FORM OF THE SKY ROVER T'AI JAVINEE...
HA-HARR! THAT BE THE WAY, LADS! MAKE THAT OL' FLOUNDER-FACE EAT CANNON-FIRE!
WE'LL SOFTEN 'IM UP WI' A FEW ROUNDS, AN' THEN NIP INSIDE AN' PINCH TH' JINJAV FROM 'IM!
WE MIGHT EVEN PINCH BACK THE BOGGIE, F'R THAT MATTER--ACTUALLY, I KIND'A LIKED THAT LAD!
'AT-A-WAY, LADS! IN AND AT HIM!
BY ALL THE MISSS-BEGOTTEN GODSSS! THISSS ISSS TOO MUCH!
SSS--I KNOW YOU, McGURK!
THISSS TREACHERY--SSS--SSSHALL NOT GO UNPUNISSSHED!
I'LL SSSHRIVEL YOUR CORPSSSE AND MAKE SSSOUP WITH YOUR BONESSS!

NOW HEAR ME, ALL--
YAARGH!
MY TAIL!
CHOMP!
YOU VILE LITTLE BEASSST!
HISSS!
SSSCREECH!
SSSNARL!
I'M FREE OF SHAGREEN'S CONSTRICTOR FIELD--
--AND HE'S FORGOTTEN ME COMPLETELY!
UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, SHAGGY'S STAFF IS THE "POWERTHING" THE BOGGIES MENTIONED.
--AND THIS METAL GIZMO IS JUST THE THING I NEED--
--TO TEST MY THEORY--
ACH!
KRAAK!


UNGLAUBLICH! THE STAFF WAS THE 'POWERTHING', ALL RIGHT--
ARE YOU OKAY, PRINCESS?
YES, I... I THINK SO. WHAT... WHAT DID YOU DO?


MEANWHILE, THE T'AI JAVINEE CONTINUES POURING HER DEADLY BARRAGE INTO L'UN DUN-T'WN...
BY THUNDER, CAP'N--TH' WHOLE BLINKIN' PLACE IS A-SHAKIN'!
AYE! WE BE AFTER STEALIN' THE JINJAV, NOT DROPPIN' A FORTRESS ON HER. CEASE FIRE, LADS, AN' PULL BACK 'TIL WE SEE WHAT'S HAPPENIN'!

WITHIN THE FORTRESS ONE FACT BECOMES TERRIFYINGLY CLEAR--
WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF SHAGREEN'S STAFF, EVERYTHING BUILT WITH THE AID OF THAT STAFF IS CRUMBLING!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

SHAGREEN'S MAGIC HELD THIS PLACE TOGETHER! NOW IT'S COMING DOWN AROUND US!
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

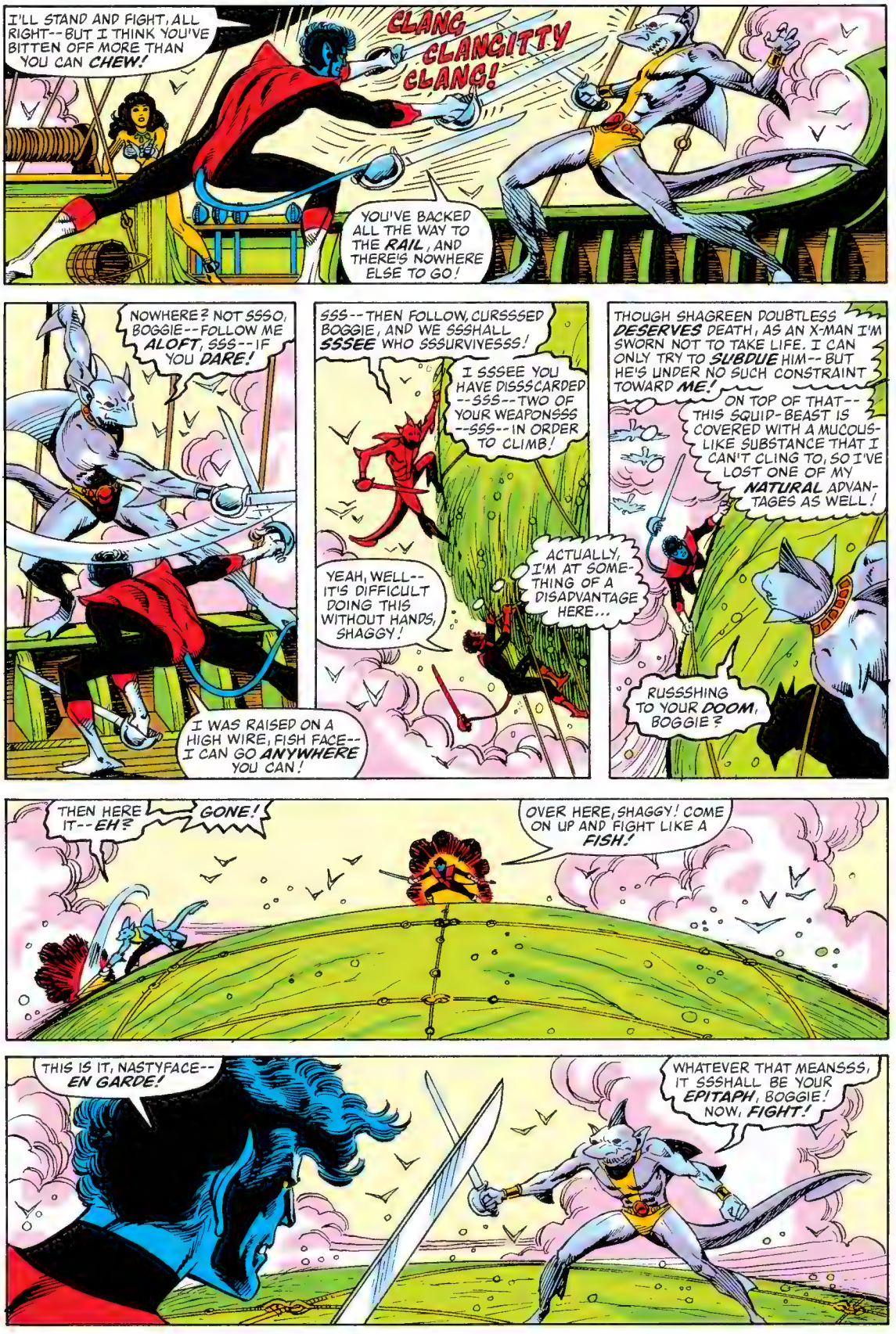
IS THIS THE WAY OUT?
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE, PRINCESS--I WAS UNCONSCIOUS WHEN I WAS BROUGHT IN HERE!

POW!
THEN YOU SSSHALL RETURN TO THAT SSSTATE, BOGGIE!

I SSSHOULD KILL YOU, BOGGIE! BUT TIME ISSS SSSHORT, AND THE FALL OF THE FORTRESSS WILL FINISSSH YOU.
FAREWELL, WRETCH!
PUT ME DOWN, YOU FILTHY BEAST!
OH, I SSSHALL, JINJAV--
ONCSSSE WE ARE SSSAFELY ABOARD MY SSSHIP, WHERE I CAN COMPLETE MY SSSACRI-FICSSSE!
I HOPE YOU DIE, YOU MONSTER!
SHORTLY...
AVAST, YE LUBBERS-- TH' WIZARD'S MAKIN' OFF WI' TH' JINJAV!
HARD ABOUT! MAKE F'R YON BLOWBAG, AN' BE QUICK ABOUT IT!
WE MADE OUR-- SSS--ESSSCAPE IN THE--SSS--NICK OF TIME!
ALL MY WORKSSS--SSS-- UP IN FLAMESSS, ALONG WITH THAT CURSSSED BOGGIE!
MEANWHILE, TRAPPED WITHIN THE BLAZING INFERNO, KURT WAGNER STRUGGLES BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS...
BOYOBOYOBOY! HIT ON THE HEAD AGAIN! MAYBE I SHOULD WEAR A HELMET...
UNGH! UNGH! GRONK!
OH, IT'S YOU AGAIN. WHAT IS THIS FIXATION YOU HAVE FOR TAILS?
YES, I KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT-- WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
LEGGO THE TAIL!

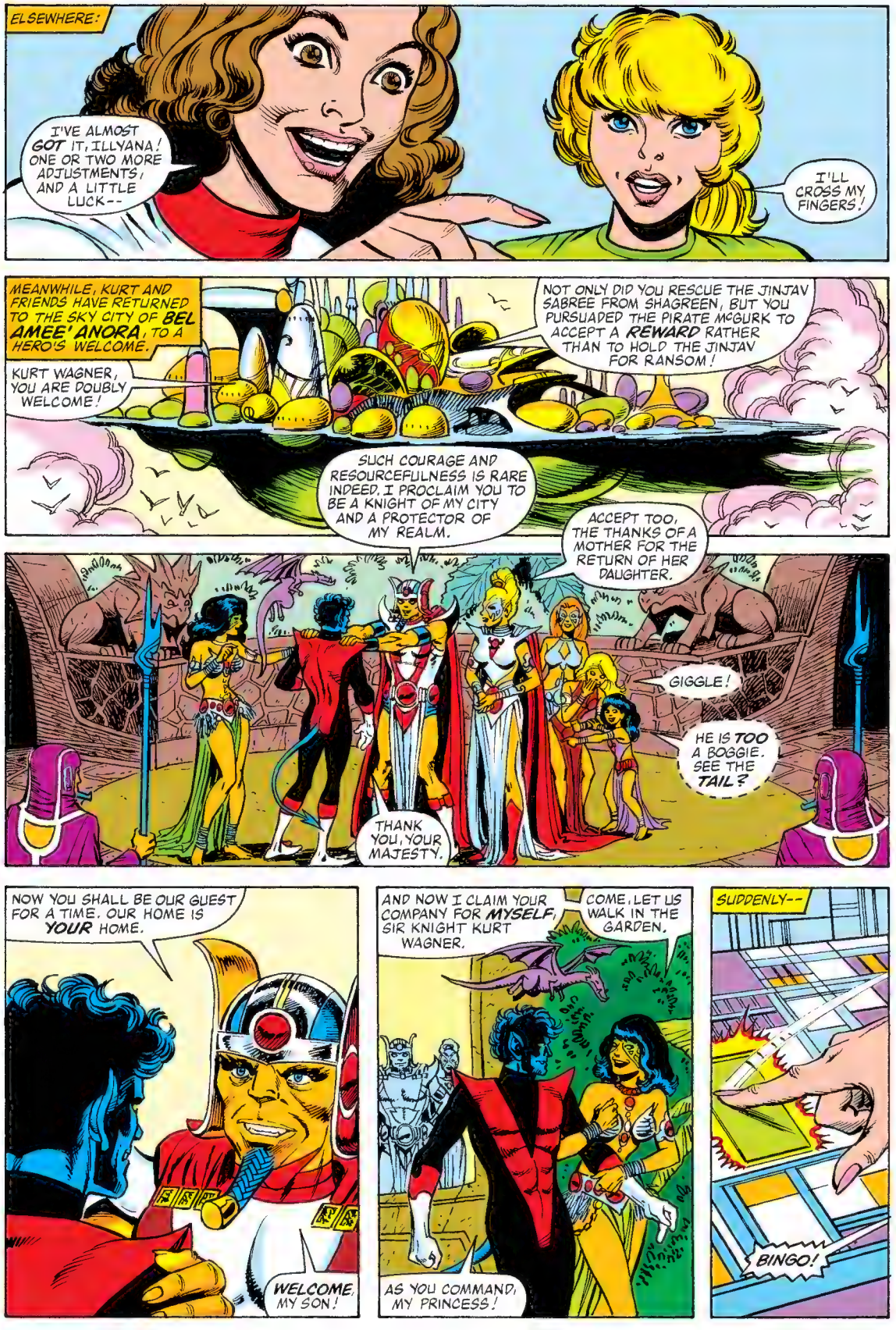
RARG!
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY--
HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE?!
I'VE HEARD OF 'BRINGING THE HOUSE DOWN', BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
MAYBE IT WAS A MISTAKE, SMASHING SHAGREEN'S STAFF.
YEEOW!
WE COULD END UP AS FRISBEES!
CRAAASH!
WHEW! I DIDN'T THINK WE WERE GOING TO MAKE IT OUT!
THIS MUST BE WHERE SHAGREEN DOCKS HIS SQUIDSHIP, BUT-- IT'S GONE!
THERE IT IS--A LONG UPHILL 'PORT, BUT I THINK I CAN MAKE IT!
BAMF
LOCKHEED?! HE DIDN'T RIDE ALONG THIS TIME!
UH-OH.
DROP THE KNIFE, SHAGREEN! NOW!
YOU! AM I NEVER TO BE FREE OF YOU?
ONE SSSTEP CLOSSSER AND SSSHE DIESSS!

I SAID, DROP IT!
YARRGH!
CURSSSED BLUE DEMON! I SSSHOULD'VE KILLED YOU WHEN I HAD THE CHANCSSSE!
OOOF!
I SSSHALL RECTIFY THAT OVERSSSIGHT NOW!
UNTIL I CAN MAKE MY SSSTAFF ANEW, A CUTLASSS MUSSST SSSERVE MY PURPOSSSE!
UH-OH--
DIE, BOGGIE!
SSSTAND SSSTILL, BLASSST YOU!
THOK!
SPLOOT!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
THIS IS MY GAME YOU'RE PLAYING NOW, SHAGGY!
NOT ONLY CAN I FENCE WITH BOTH HANDS, MY TAIL'S PRETTY GOOD WITH A BLADE TOO!
SORT OF LIKE A TAIL GUNNER, AS IT WERE...
FREAK! BUFFOON!
ENOUGH OF THISSS FOOLISSSH GAME! SSSTAND AND FIGHT!

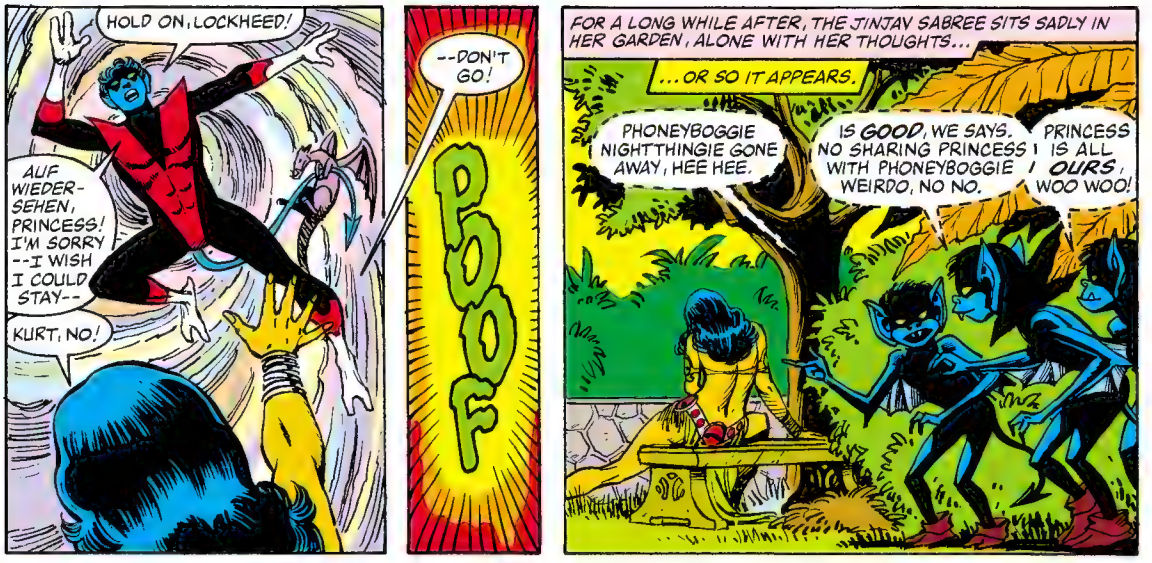

I'LL STAND AND FIGHT, ALL RIGHT-- BUT I THINK YOU'VE BITTEN OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW!
CLANG CLANGITTY CLANG!
YOU'VE BACKED ALL THE WAY TO THE RAIL, AND THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE TO GO!
NOWHERE? NOT SSSO, BOGGIE--FOLLOW ME ALOFT, SSS--IF YOU DARE!
I WAS RAISED ON A HIGH WIRE, FISH FACE-- I CAN GO ANYWHERE YOU CAN!
SSS--THEN FOLLOW, CURSSSED BOGGIE, AND WE SSSHALL SSSEE WHO SSSURVIVESSS!
I SSSEE YOU HAVE DISSSCARDED --SSS--TWO OF YOUR WEAPONSSS --SSS--IN ORDER TO CLIMB!
YEAH, WELL-- IT'S DIFFICULT DOING THIS WITHOUT HANDS, SHAGGY!
ACTUALLY, I'M AT SOMETHING OF A DISADVANTAGE HERE...
THOUGH SHAGREEN DOUBTLESS DESERVES DEATH, AS AN X-MAN I'M SWORN NOT TO TAKE LIFE. I CAN ONLY TRY TO SUBDUE HIM-- BUT HE'S UNDER NO SUCH CONSTRAINT TOWARD ME!
ON TOP OF THAT-- THIS SQUID-BEAST IS COVERED WITH A MUCOUS-LIKE SUBSTANCE THAT I CAN'T CLING TO, SO I'VE LOST ONE OF MY NATURAL ADVANTAGES AS WELL!
RUSSSHING TO YOUR DOOM, BOGGIE?
THEN HERE IT--EH? GONE!
OVER HERE, SHAGGY! COME ON UP AND FIGHT LIKE A FISH!
THIS IS IT, NASTYFACE-- EN GARDE!
WHATEVER THAT MEANSSS, IT SSSHALL BE YOUR EPITAPH, BOGGIE! NOW, FIGHT!

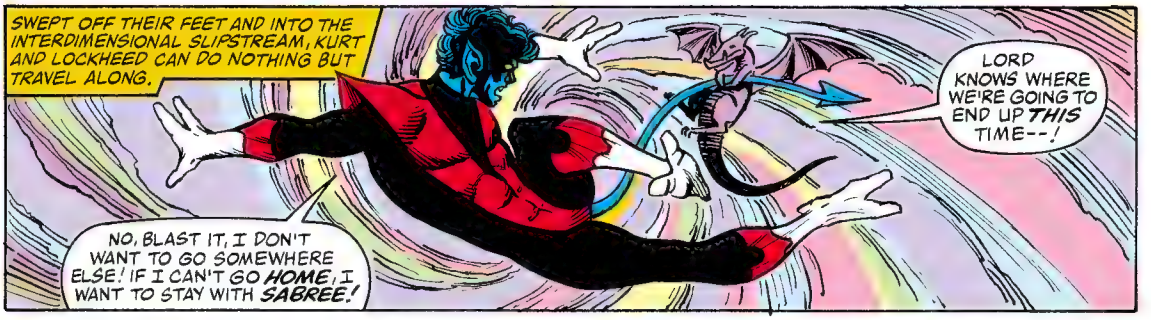
BY THE WAY, FISHFACE-- FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I'M NOT A BOGGIE!
INDEED--?
SWISH!
I'M A DIMENSIONAL TRAVELER!
--THEN YOU'RE A DEAD DIMEN-SSSIONAL TRAVELER, BOGGIE!
TALK'S CHEAP, SNAGGLEPUSS! I--
--I SLIPPED!
HAH! THAT'SSS WHAT I WASSS WAITING FOR!
FAREWELL, CURSSSED BOGGIE!
LOCKHEED HAS FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO THE FLEEING SQUIDSHIP--
--JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!
YIIIEE!
BAMF
KURT TELEPORTS TO SAFETY AND SHAGREEN, OFF BALANCE, GOES OVER THE SIDE!

ACH! HE'S FALLING!
HYEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
HE'S GONE. PERHAPS I SHOULD'VE TRIED TO SAVE HIM--
--BUT I COULDN'T HAVE 'PORTED BACK UP TO THE SHIP WITH HIM.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, PRINCESS?
YES, THANKS TO YOU, MY GALLANT RESCUER. ARE YOU REALLY A BOGGIE?
SORT OF, YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT NOT EXACTLY.
MY NAME IS KURT WAGNER, AND I'M PRIVILEGED TO BE OF SERVICE TO YOU.
I AM PLEASED TO KNOW YOU, KURT WAGNER. MY NAME IS SABREE--
--AND THIS IS FOR YOU.
BUT SUDDENLY...
AHOY, BOGGIE! COME ABOARD, IF YE PLEASE, AN' BRING THE JIN-JAV WITH YE!
WE'VE A BIT O' BUSINESS TO DISCUSS!


ELSEWHERE:
I'VE ALMOST GOT IT, ILLYANA! ONE OR TWO MORE ADJUSTMENTS, AND A LITTLE LUCK--
I'LL CROSS MY FINGERS!
MEANWHILE, KURT AND FRIENDS HAVE RETURNED TO THE SKY CITY OF BEL AMEE' ANORA, TO A HERO'S WELCOME.
KURT WAGNER, YOU ARE DOUBLY WELCOME!
NOT ONLY DID YOU RESCUE THE JINJAV SABREE FROM SHAGREEN, BUT YOU PURSUADED THE PIRATE McGURK TO ACCEPT A REWARD RATHER THAN TO HOLD THE JINJAV FOR RANSOM!
SUCH COURAGE AND RESOURCEFULNESS IS RARE INDEED. I PROCLAIM YOU TO BE A KNIGHT OF MY CITY AND A PROTECTOR OF MY REALM.
ACCEPT TOO, THE THANKS OF A MOTHER FOR THE RETURN OF HER DAUGHTER.
GIGGLE!
HE IS TOO A BOGGIE. SEE THE TAIL?
THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.
NOW YOU SHALL BE OUR GUEST FOR A TIME. OUR HOME IS YOUR HOME.
WELCOME, MY SON!
AND NOW I CLAIM YOUR COMPANY FOR MYSELF, SIR KNIGHT KURT WAGNER.
COME, LET US WALK IN THE GARDEN.
AS YOU COMMAND, MY PRINCESS!
SUDDENLY--
BINGO!

THE CONTACT DIDN'T FEEL ENTIRELY SOLID, BUT I'M SURE I GOT A PIECE OF HIM--
A PIECE?!
ARE YOU CRAZY? WHAT IF--
MICHAEL
--OH, MY!
KITTY! YOU ONLY GOT HIS COSTUME!
SEND IT BACK! SEND IT BACK! KURT'S OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, GIVING A FREE SHOW!
I THINK I CAN RESET FOR ANOTHER TRY--
JACKSON
I HOPE I CAN--
MEANWHILE--
AH--
AH--
AH--
BY THE GODDESS, KURT! YOUR CLOTHING DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY-- AND THEN REAPPEARED!
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?!
--AND CAN YOU DO IT AGAIN?
GOT HIM!
WHAT IN--OH NO, NOT NOW!
STAY BACK, PRINCESS--
KURT-- WHAT IS IT?
IT'S ANOTHER DIMENSIONAL WARP! IT'S PULLING ME IN!


HOLD ON, LOCKHEED!
AUF WIEDER-SEHEN, PRINCESS! I'M SORRY --I WISH I COULD STAY--
KURT, NO!
--DON'T GO!
POOF
FOR A LONG WHILE AFTER, THE JINJAV SABREE SITS SADLY IN HER GARDEN, ALONE WITH HER THOUGHTS...
...OR SO IT APPEARS.
PHONEYBOGGIE NIGHTTHINGIE GONE AWAY, HEE HEE.
IS GOOD, WE SAYS. NO SHARING PRINCESS WITH PHONEYBOGGIE WEIRDO, NO NO.
PRINCESS IS ALL OURS, WOO WOO!


SWEPT OFF THEIR FEET AND INTO THE INTERDIMENSIONAL SLIPSTREAM, KURT AND LOCKHEED CAN DO NOTHING BUT TRAVEL ALONG.
LORD KNOWS WHERE WE'RE GOING TO END UP THIS TIME--!
NO, BLAST IT, I DON'T WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE! IF I CAN'T GO HOME, I WANT TO STAY WITH SABREE!

NEXT: TO BAMF OR NOT TO BAMF!

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NIGHTCRAWLER
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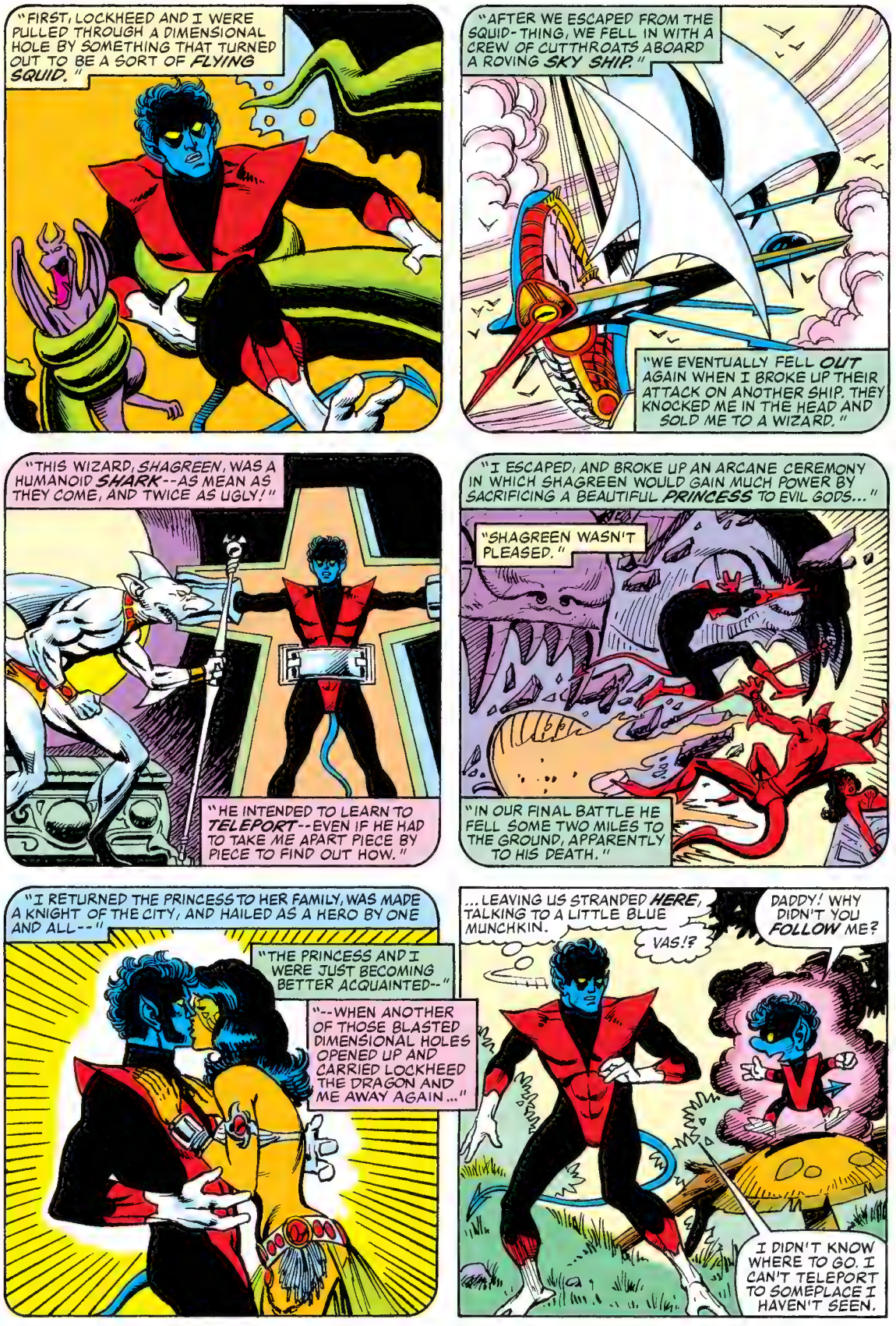
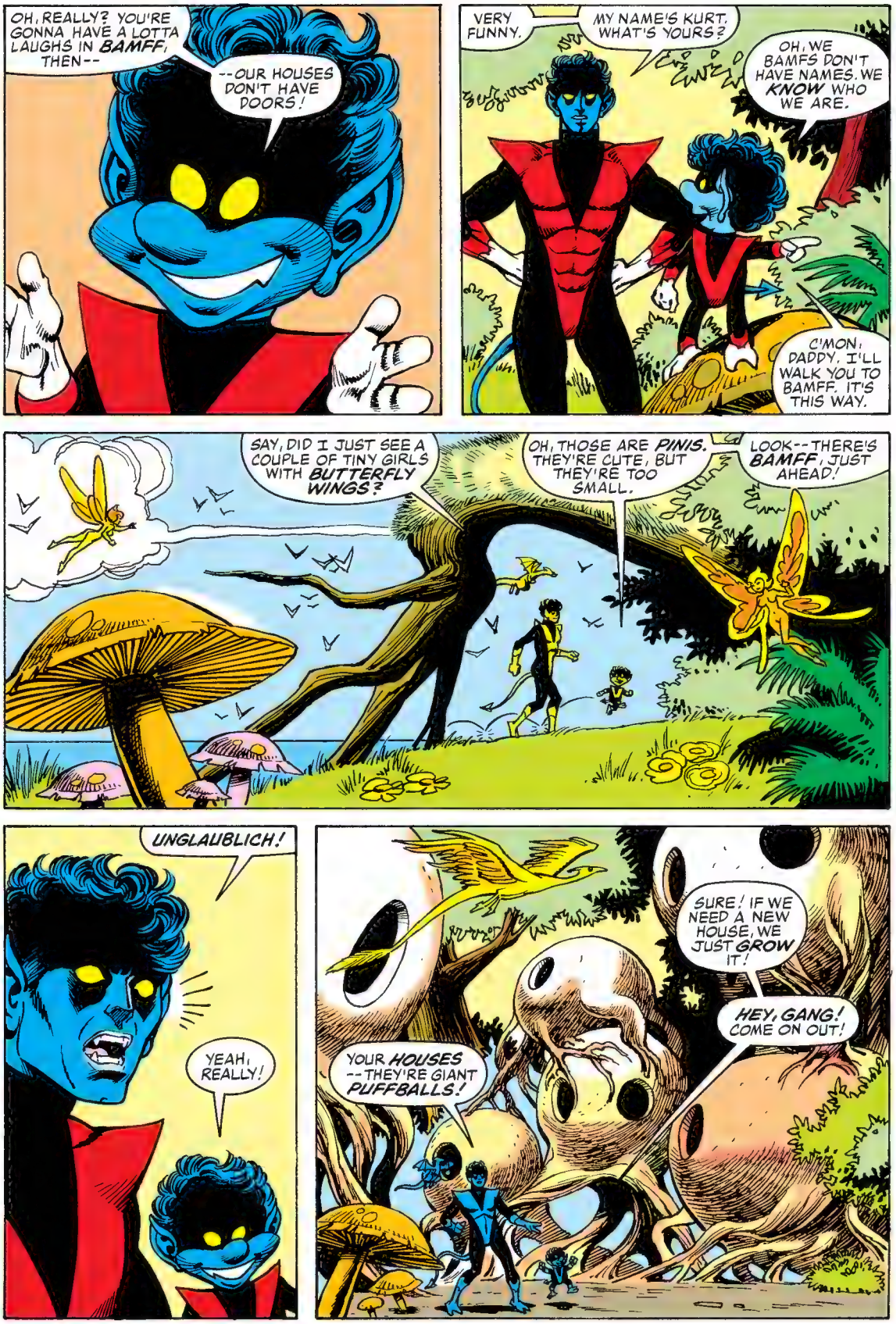
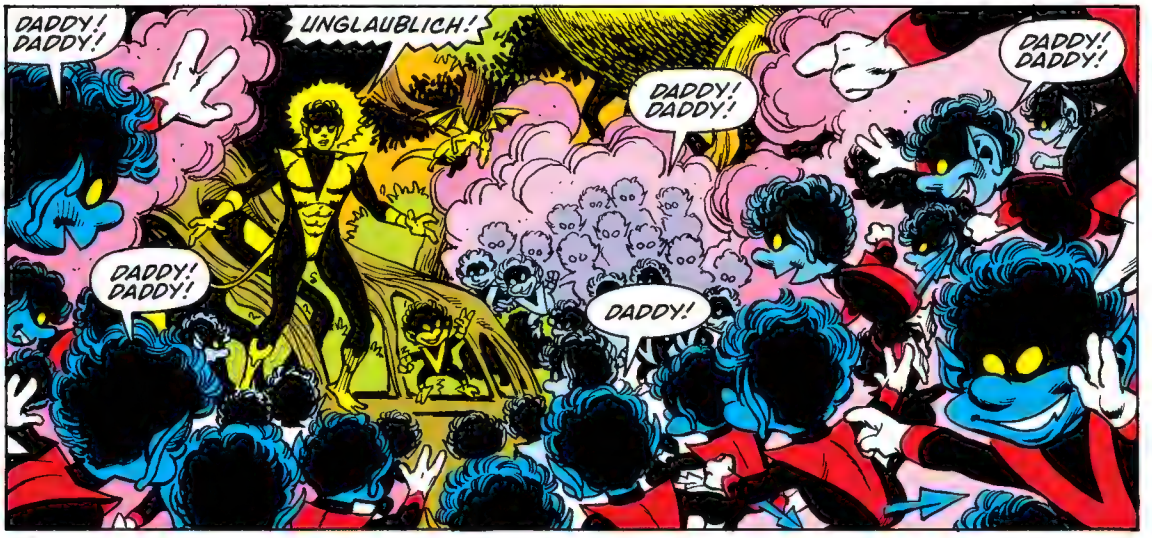
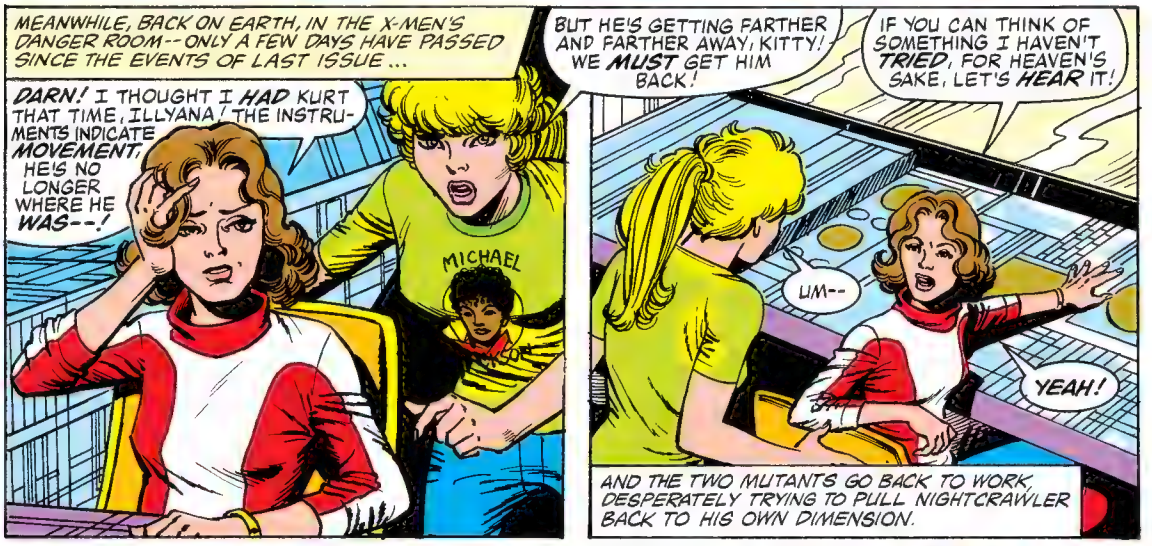
Stan Lee PRESENTS: NIGHTCRAWLER!
TO BAMF OR NOT TO BAMF!
VAS--
DADDY! YOU'VE COME HOME!
MEIN GOTT, IT'S A CABBAGE-PATCH NIGHTCRAWLER!
WRITER/ARTIST--DAVE COCKRUM
COLORIST--PATY
LETTERER--JIM NOVAK
EDITOR--ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR IN CHIEF--JIM SHOOTER

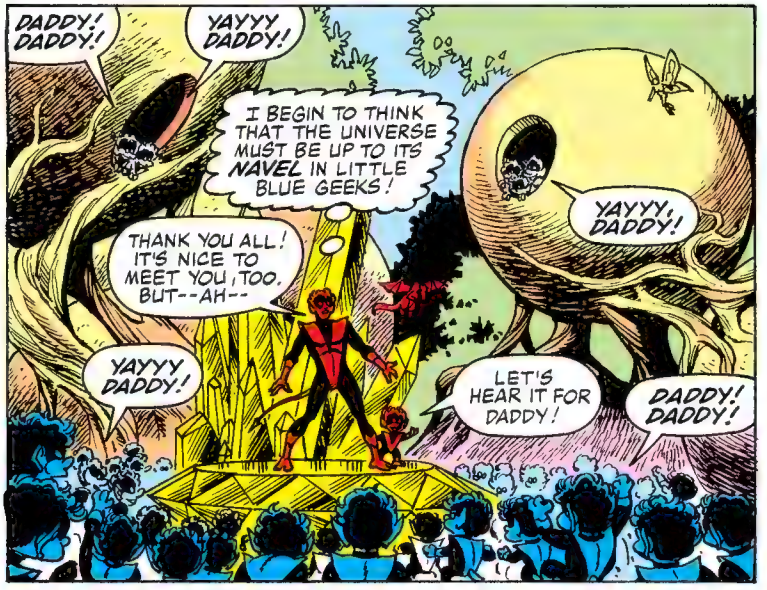
OH BOY, WHAT NEXT?
AHH--WHO ARE YOU? AND WHERE IS THIS?
I'M A BAMF, OF COURSE--
--WELCOME TO BAMF ISLAND, DADDY!
A BA--NOW HOLD IT! I REMEMBER--KITTY'S FAIRY TALE!* BAMFS DON'T EXIST--THEY'RE JUST CHARACTERS IN A STORY!
I AM NOT MADE UP!
I'M A BAMF, AND US BAMFS LIVE HERE ON BAMF ISLAND, DADDY!
*X-MEN #153--ANN N.
I'M NOT YOUR DADDY. WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME DADDY?
YOU LOOK LIKE ME AND YOU'RE THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF ANY BAMF I EVER SAW.
THAT MAKES YOU THE DADDY BAMF, RIGHT?
WELL, YEAH--I SUPPOSE IT DOES... IN A WAY--
ACH!
YOU'VE GOTTA COME WITH ME TO BAMFF, OUR HOME TOWN, DADDY! EVERYBODY WILL WANT TO MEET YOU!
BAMF
DO I SMELL LIKE THAT WHEN I TELEPORT? GOOD HEAVENS, HOW EMBARRASSING!
NOW I KNOW HOW ALICE FELT WHEN SHE FELL DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE.
I'VE HAD ONE BIZARRE EXPERIENCE AFTER ANOTHER SINCE THIS AFFAIR STARTED.
SEEMS LIKE WEEKS SINCE IT ALL BEGAN...


"FIRST, LOCKHEED AND I WERE PULLED THROUGH A DIMENSIONAL HOLE BY SOMETHING THAT TURNED OUT TO BE A SORT OF FLYING SQUID."
"AFTER WE ESCAPED FROM THE SQUID-THING, WE FELL IN WITH A CREW OF CUTTHROATS ABOARD A ROVING SKY SHIP."
"WE EVENTUALLY FELL OUT AGAIN WHEN I BROKE UP THEIR ATTACK ON ANOTHER SHIP. THEY KNOCKED ME IN THE HEAD AND SOLD ME TO A WIZARD."
"THIS WIZARD, SHAGREEN, WAS A HUMANOID SHARK--AS MEAN AS THEY COME, AND TWICE AS UGLY!"
"HE INTENDED TO LEARN TO TELEPORT--EVEN IF HE HAD TO TAKE ME APART PIECE BY PIECE TO FIND OUT HOW."
"I ESCAPED, AND BROKE UP AN ARCANE CEREMONY IN WHICH SHAGREEN WOULD GAIN MUCH POWER BY SACRIFICING A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS TO EVIL GODS..."
"SHAGREEN WASN'T PLEASED."
"IN OUR FINAL BATTLE HE FELL SOME TWO MILES TO THE GROUND, APPARENTLY TO HIS DEATH."
"I RETURNED THE PRINCESS TO HER FAMILY, WAS MADE A KNIGHT OF THE CITY, AND HAILED AS A HERO BY ONE AND ALL--"
"THE PRINCESS AND I WERE JUST BECOMING BETTER ACQUAINTED--"
"--WHEN ANOTHER OF THOSE BLASTED DIMENSIONAL HOLES OPENED UP AND CARRIED LOCKHEED THE DRAGON AND ME AWAY AGAIN..."
...LEAVING US STRANDED HERE, TALKING TO A LITTLE BLUE MUNCHKIN.
VAS!?
DADDY! WHY DIDN'T YOU FOLLOW ME?
I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO GO. I CAN'T TELEPORT TO SOMEPLACE I HAVEN'T SEEN.

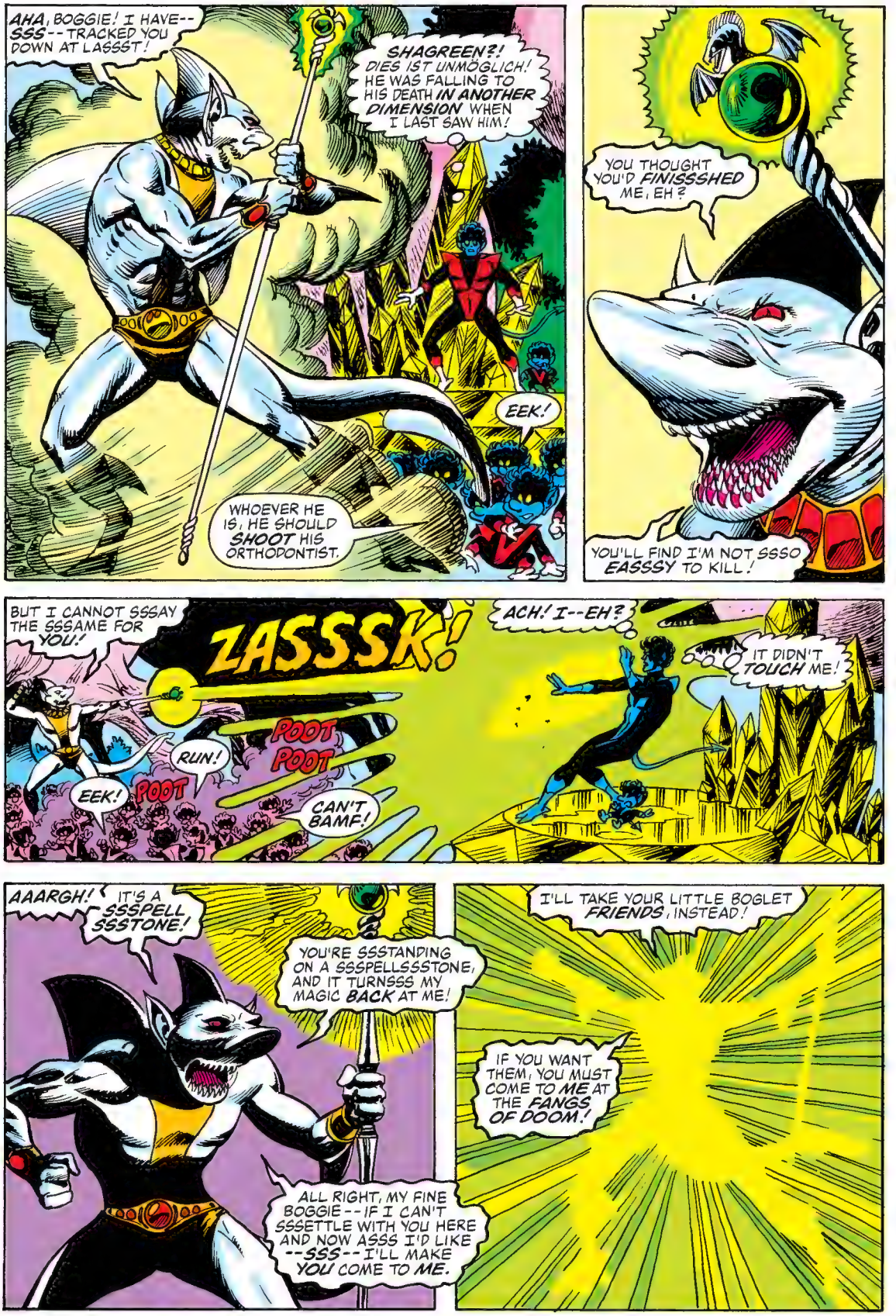

OH, REALLY? YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A LOTTA LAUGHS IN BAMFF, THEN--
--OUR HOUSES DON'T HAVE DOORS!
VERY FUNNY.
MY NAME'S KURT. WHAT'S YOURS?
OH, WE BAMFS DON'T HAVE NAMES. WE KNOW WHO WE ARE.
C'MON, DADDY. I'LL WALK YOU TO BAMFF. IT'S THIS WAY.
SAY, DID I JUST SEE A COUPLE OF TINY GIRLS WITH BUTTERFLY WINGS?
OH, THOSE ARE PINIS. THEY'RE CUTE, BUT THEY'RE TOO SMALL.
LOOK--THERE'S BAMFF, JUST AHEAD!
UNGLAUBLICH!
YEAH, REALLY!
SURE! IF WE NEED A NEW HOUSE, WE JUST GROW IT!
HEY, GANG! COME ON OUT!
YOUR HOUSES --THEY'RE GIANT PUFFBALLS!

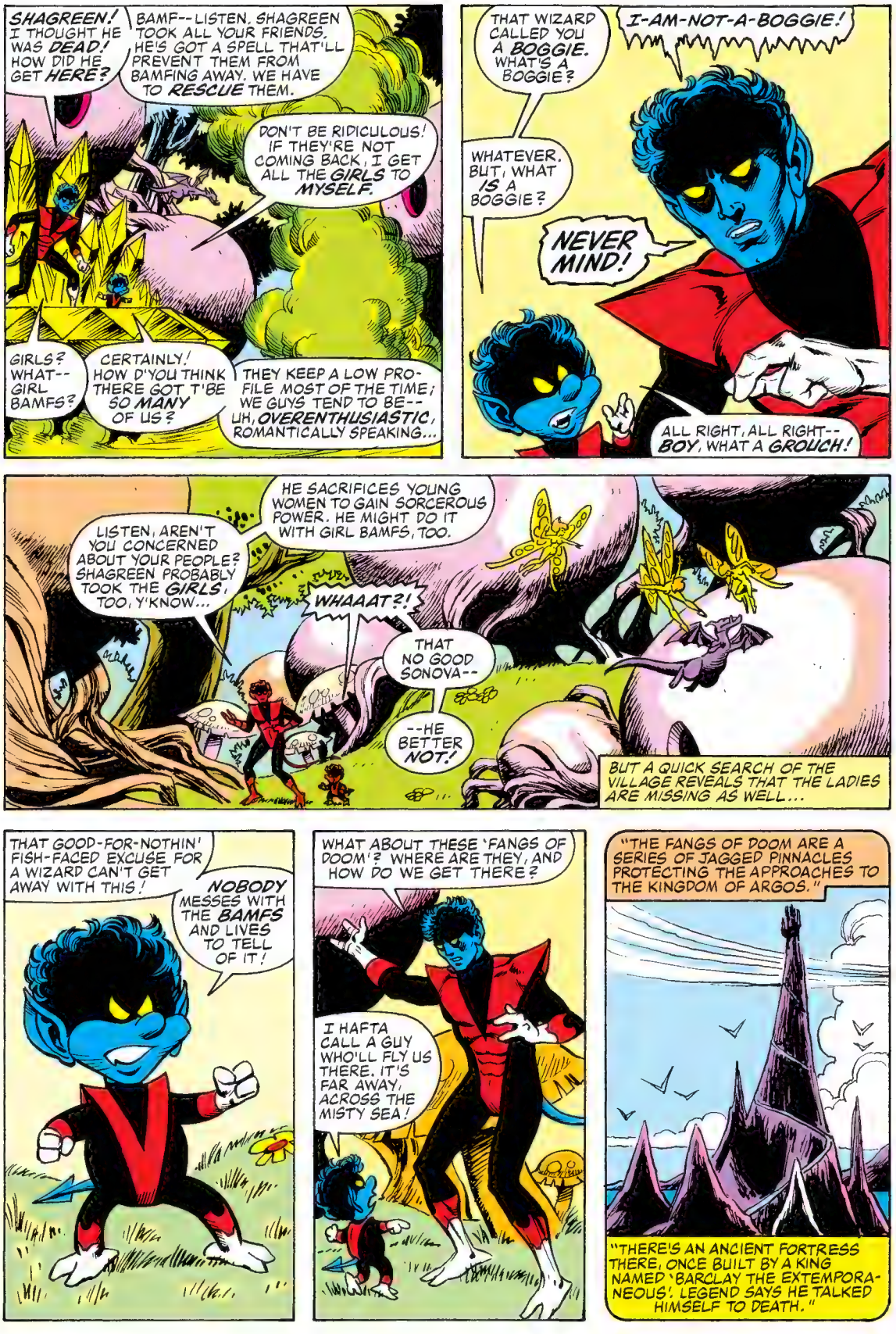

DADDY! DADDY!
UNGLAUBLICH!
DADDY! DADDY!
DADDY! DADDY!
DADDY! DADDY!
DADDY!


MEANWHILE, BACK ON EARTH, IN THE X-MEN'S DANGER ROOM--ONLY A FEW DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE EVENTS OF LAST ISSUE ...
DARN! I THOUGHT I HAD KURT THAT TIME, ILLYANA! THE INSTRUMENTS INDICATE MOVEMENT. HE'S NO LONGER WHERE HE WAS--!
MICHAEL
BUT HE'S GETTING FARTHER AND FARTHER AWAY, KITTY! WE MUST GET HIM BACK!
IF YOU CAN THINK OF SOMETHING I HAVEN'T TRIED, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, LET'S HEAR IT!
UM--
YEAH!
AND THE TWO MUTANTS GO BACK TO WORK, DESPERATELY TRYING TO PULL NIGHTCRAWLER BACK TO HIS OWN DIMENSION.

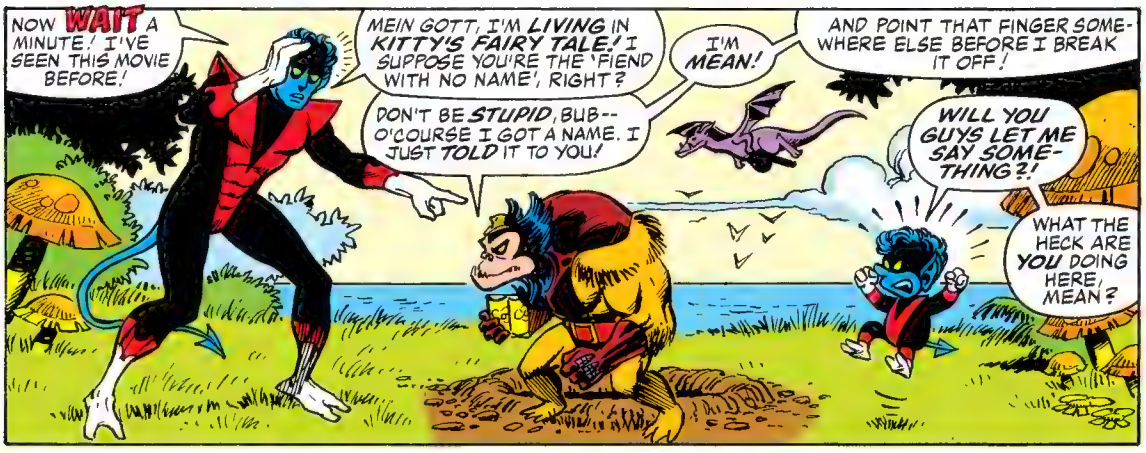

DADDY! DADDY!
YAYYY DADDY!
I BEGIN TO THINK THAT THE UNIVERSE MUST BE UP TO ITS NAVEL IN LITTLE BLUE GEEKS!
YAYYY, DADDY!
THANK YOU ALL! IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO. BUT--AH--
YAYYY DADDY!
LET'S HEAR IT FOR DADDY!
DADDY! DADDY!

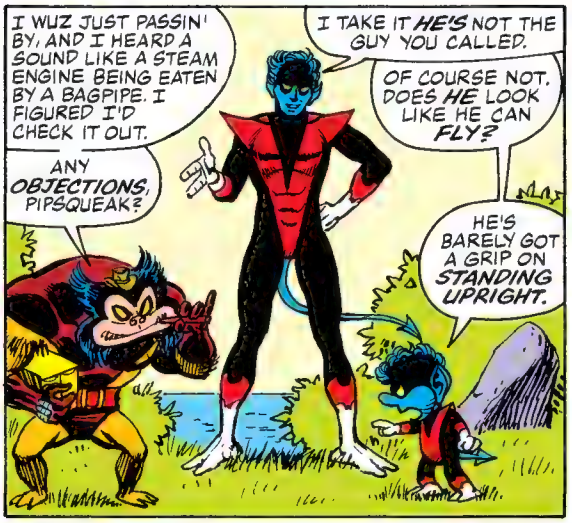
SUDDENLY...
BOOM!
VAS IST--
EEK!
LOOK OUT!


AHA, BOGGIE! I HAVE-- SSS-- TRACKED YOU DOWN AT LASSST!
SHAGREEN?! DIES IST UNMÖGLICH! HE WAS FALLING TO HIS DEATH IN ANOTHER DIMENSION WHEN I LAST SAW HIM!
EEK!
WHOEVER HE IS, HE SHOULD SHOOT HIS ORTHODONTIST.
YOU THOUGHT YOU'D FINISSSHED ME, EH?
YOU'LL FIND I'M NOT SSSO EASSSY TO KILL!
BUT I CANNOT SSSAY THE SSSAME FOR YOU!
ZASSSK!
ACH! I--EH?
IT DIDN'T TOUCH ME!
RUN!
POOT
POOT
EEK!
POOT
CAN'T BAMF!
AAARGH! IT'S A SSSPELL SSSTONE!
YOU'RE SSSTANDING ON A SSSPELLSSSTONE, AND IT TURNSSS MY MAGIC BACK AT ME!
ALL RIGHT, MY FINE BOGGIE -- IF I CAN'T SSSETTLE WITH YOU HERE AND NOW ASSS I'D LIKE --SSS-- I'LL MAKE YOU COME TO ME.
I'LL TAKE YOUR LITTLE BOGLET FRIENDS, INSTEAD!
IF YOU WANT THEM, YOU MUST COME TO ME AT THE FANGS OF DOOM!

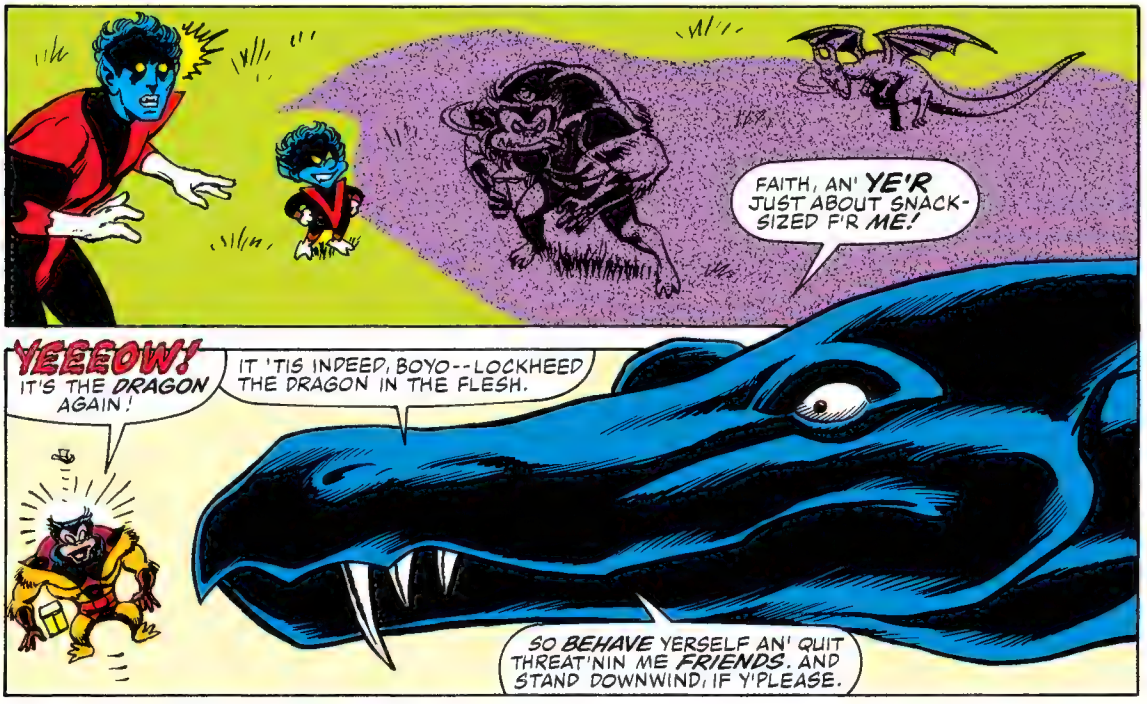

SHAGREEN! I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD! HOW DID HE GET HERE?
BAMF--LISTEN, SHAGREEN TOOK ALL YOUR FRIENDS. HE'S GOT A SPELL THAT'LL PREVENT THEM FROM BAMFING AWAY. WE HAVE TO RESCUE THEM.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! IF THEY'RE NOT COMING BACK, I GET ALL THE GIRLS TO MYSELF.
GIRLS? WHAT--GIRL BAMFS?
CERTAINLY! HOW D'YOU THINK THERE GOT T'BE SO MANY OF US?
THEY KEEP A LOW PROFILE MOST OF THE TIME; WE GUYS TEND TO BE--UH, OVERENTHUSIASTIC, ROMANTICALLY SPEAKING...
THAT WIZARD CALLED YOU A BOGGIE. WHAT'S A BOGGIE?
I-AM-NOT-A-BOGGIE!
WHATEVER. BUT, WHAT IS A BOGGIE?
NEVER MIND!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT--BOY, WHAT A GROUCH!
LISTEN, AREN'T YOU CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR PEOPLE? SHAGREEN PROBABLY TOOK THE GIRLS, TOO, Y'KNOW...
HE SACRIFICES YOUNG WOMEN TO GAIN SORCEROUS POWER. HE MIGHT DO IT WITH GIRL BAMFS, TOO.
WHAAAT?!
THAT NO GOOD SONOVA--
--HE BETTER NOT!
BUT A QUICK SEARCH OF THE VILLAGE REVEALS THAT THE LADIES ARE MISSING AS WELL...
THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHIN' FISH-FACED EXCUSE FOR A WIZARD CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
NOBODY MESSES WITH THE BAMFS AND LIVES TO TELL OF IT!
WHAT ABOUT THESE 'FANGS OF DOOM'? WHERE ARE THEY, AND HOW DO WE GET THERE?
I HAFTA CALL A GUY WHO'LL FLY US THERE. IT'S FAR AWAY, ACROSS THE MISTY SEA!
"THE FANGS OF DOOM ARE A SERIES OF JAGGED PINNACLES PROTECTING THE APPROACHES TO THE KINGDOM OF ARGOS."
"THERE'S AN ANCIENT FORTRESS THERE, ONCE BUILT BY A KING NAMED 'BARCLAY THE EXTEMPORANEOUS'. LEGEND SAYS HE TALKED HIMSELF TO DEATH."

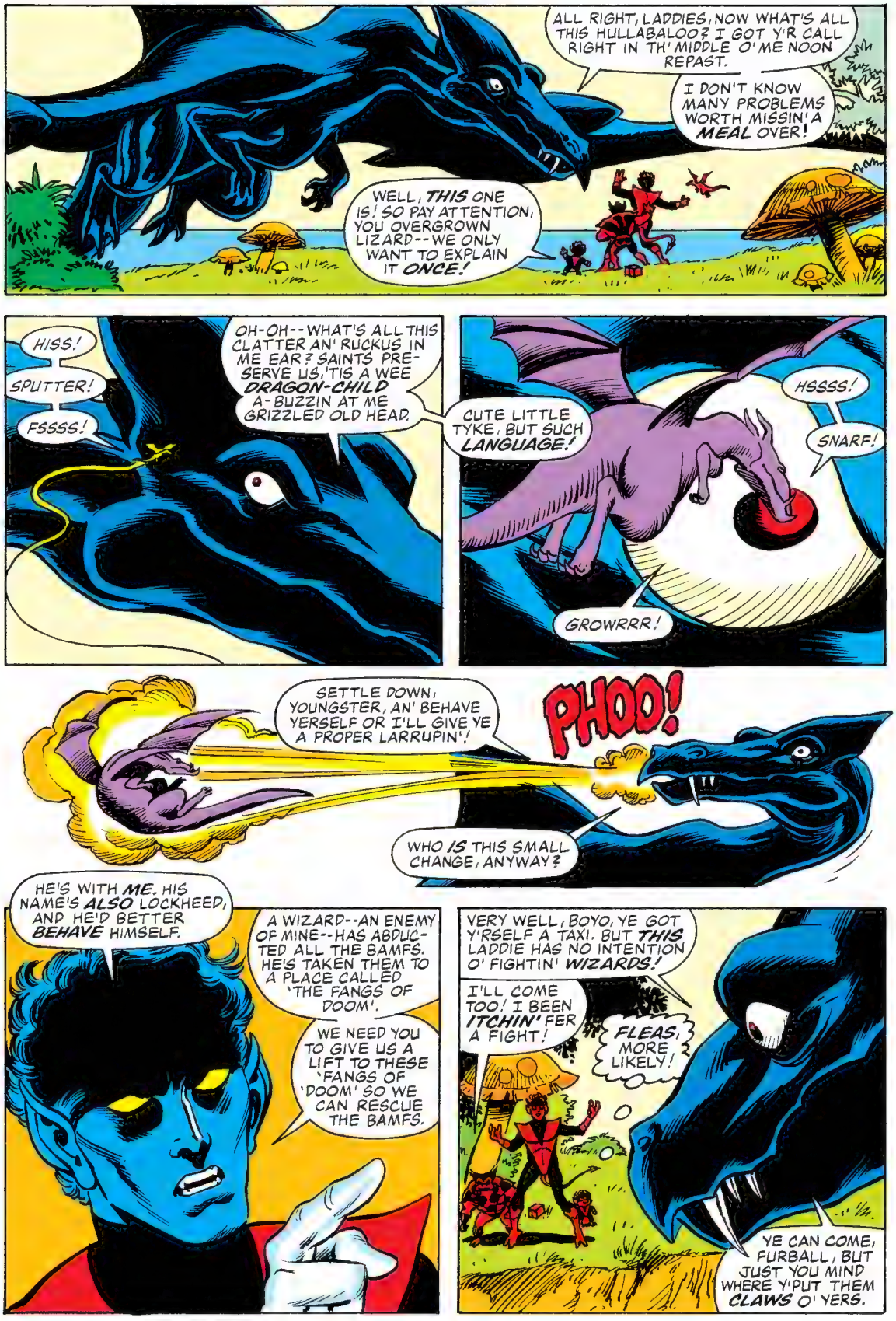
SHORTLY...
IT'S A GREAT HORN, POINTING OUT TO SEA.
THERE! THAT'S WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR...
STAND BACK, DADDY, WHILE I GIVE 'ER A BLAST!
BEEBOPA ROOTEE SHEEZMA BAYBEE
VAS--? THE GROUND IS SHAKING! IS IT AN EARTHQUAKE?
BAMF! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SUDDENLY...
UNGLAUBLICH! IT'S SOME SORT OF OBJECT, SPINNING UP OUT OF THE GROUND!
OH, NO! NOT HIM AGAIN!
RRMMMM
HOWDY, FOLKS! I'M MEAN!
POP!
FEELS GOOD TO TAKE A BREAK! I BEEN WANTIN' A SMOKE FOR HOURS--
SCRITCH
--EVER SINCE I TOOK THAT WRONG TURN AT ALBUQUERQUE!
PUF
SUUUCK
PTOO!
AH! BETTER.


NOW WAIT A MINUTE! I'VE SEEN THIS MOVIE BEFORE!
MEIN GOTT, I'M LIVING IN KITTY'S FAIRY TALE! I SUPPOSE YOU'RE THE 'FIEND WITH NO NAME', RIGHT?
DON'T BE STUPID, BUB-- O'COURSE I GOT A NAME. I JUST TOLD IT TO YOU!
I'M MEAN!
AND POINT THAT FINGER SOMEWHERE ELSE BEFORE I BREAK IT OFF!
WILL YOU GUYS LET ME SAY SOMETHING?!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING HERE, MEAN?

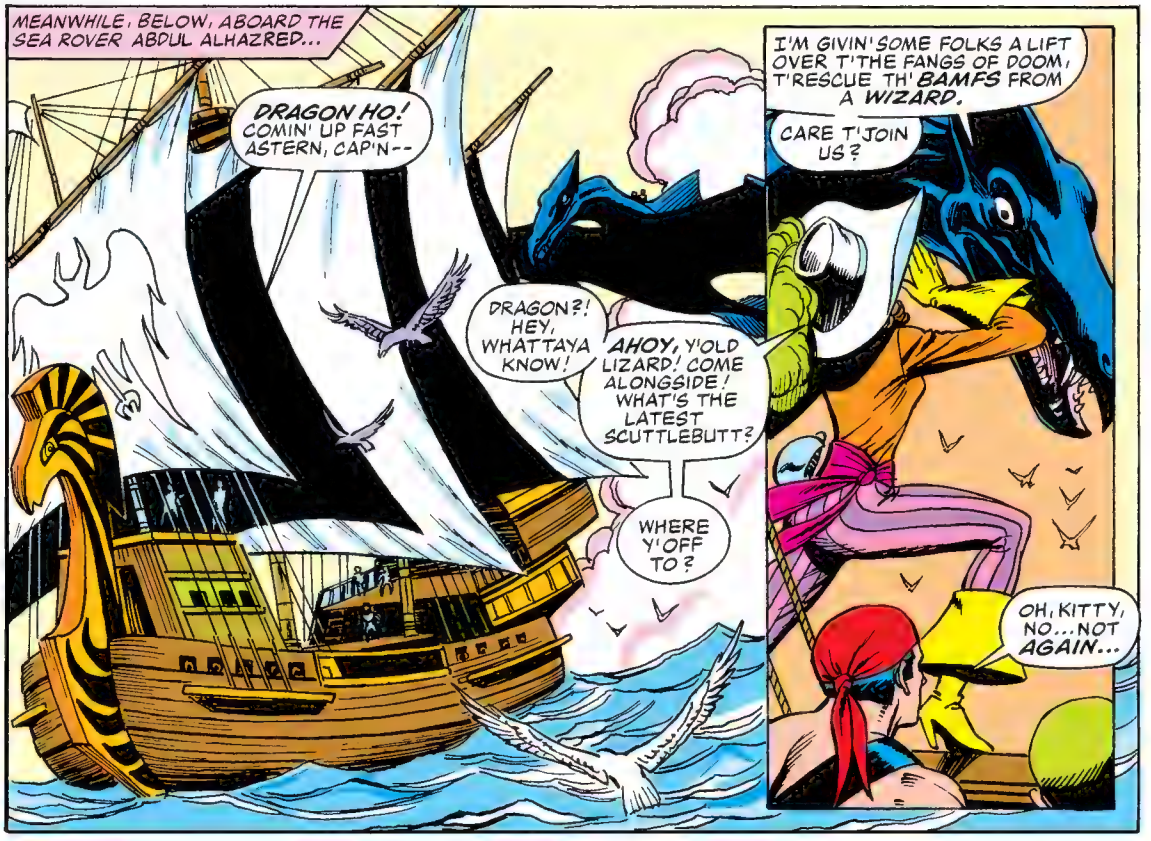

I WUZ JUST PASSIN' BY, AND I HEARD A SOUND LIKE A STEAM ENGINE BEING EATEN BY A BAGPIPE. I FIGURED I'D CHECK IT OUT.
ANY OBJECTIONS, PIPSQUEAK?
I TAKE IT HE'S NOT THE GUY YOU CALLED.
OF COURSE NOT. DOES HE LOOK LIKE HE CAN FLY?
HE'S BARELY GOT A GRIP ON STANDING UPRIGHT.

YOU'RE CRUISIN' FER TROUBLE, SHORT STUFF--!
OH YEAH?! YOU AND WHAT ARMY, FURBALL?
Y'KNOW, YOU'RE JUST ABOUT SANDWICH-SIZE, IF YOU TAKE MY MEANING--
FANCY THAT NOW...

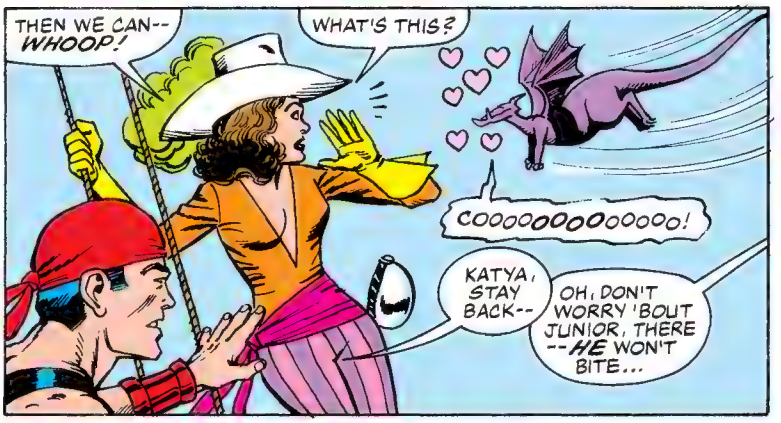

FAITH, AN' YE'R JUST ABOUT SNACK-SIZED F'R ME!
YEEEOW! IT'S THE DRAGON AGAIN!
IT 'TIS INDEED, BOYO--LOCKHEED THE DRAGON IN THE FLESH.
SO BEHAVE YERSELF AN' QUIT THREAT'NIN ME FRIENDS. AND STAND DOWNWIND, IF Y'PLEASE.

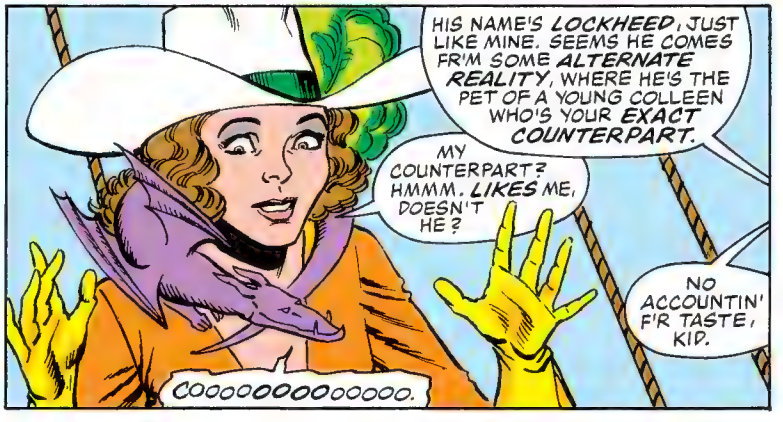

ALL RIGHT, LADDIES, NOW WHAT'S ALL THIS HULLABALOO? I GOT Y'R CALL RIGHT IN TH' MIDDLE O' ME NOON REPAST.
I DON'T KNOW MANY PROBLEMS WORTH MISSIN' A MEAL OVER!
WELL, THIS ONE IS! SO PAY ATTENTION, YOU OVERGROWN LIZARD--WE ONLY WANT TO EXPLAIN IT ONCE!
HISS!
SPUTTER!
FSSSS!
OH-OH--WHAT'S ALL THIS CLATTER AN' RUCKUS IN ME EAR? SAINTS PRESERVE US, 'TIS A WEE DRAGON-CHILD A-BUZZIN AT ME GRIZZLED OLD HEAD.
CUTE LITTLE TYKE, BUT SUCH LANGUAGE!
HSSSS!
SNARF!
GROWRRR!
SETTLE DOWN, YOUNGSTER, AN' BEHAVE YERSELF OR I'LL GIVE YE A PROPER LARRUPIN'!
PHOO!
WHO IS THIS SMALL CHANGE, ANYWAY?
HE'S WITH ME. HIS NAME'S ALSO LOCKHEED, AND HE'D BETTER BEHAVE HIMSELF.
A WIZARD--AN ENEMY OF MINE--HAS ABDUCTED ALL THE BAMFS. HE'S TAKEN THEM TO A PLACE CALLED 'THE FANGS OF DOOM'.
WE NEED YOU TO GIVE US A LIFT TO THESE 'FANGS OF 'DOOM' SO WE CAN RESCUE THE BAMFS.
VERY WELL, BOYO, YE GOT Y'RSELF A TAXI. BUT THIS LADDIE HAS NO INTENTION O' FIGHTIN' WIZARDS!
I'LL COME TOO! I BEEN ITCHIN' FER A FIGHT!
FLEAS, MORE LIKELY!
YE CAN COME, FURBALL, BUT JUST YOU MIND WHERE Y'PUT THEM CLAWS O' YERS.

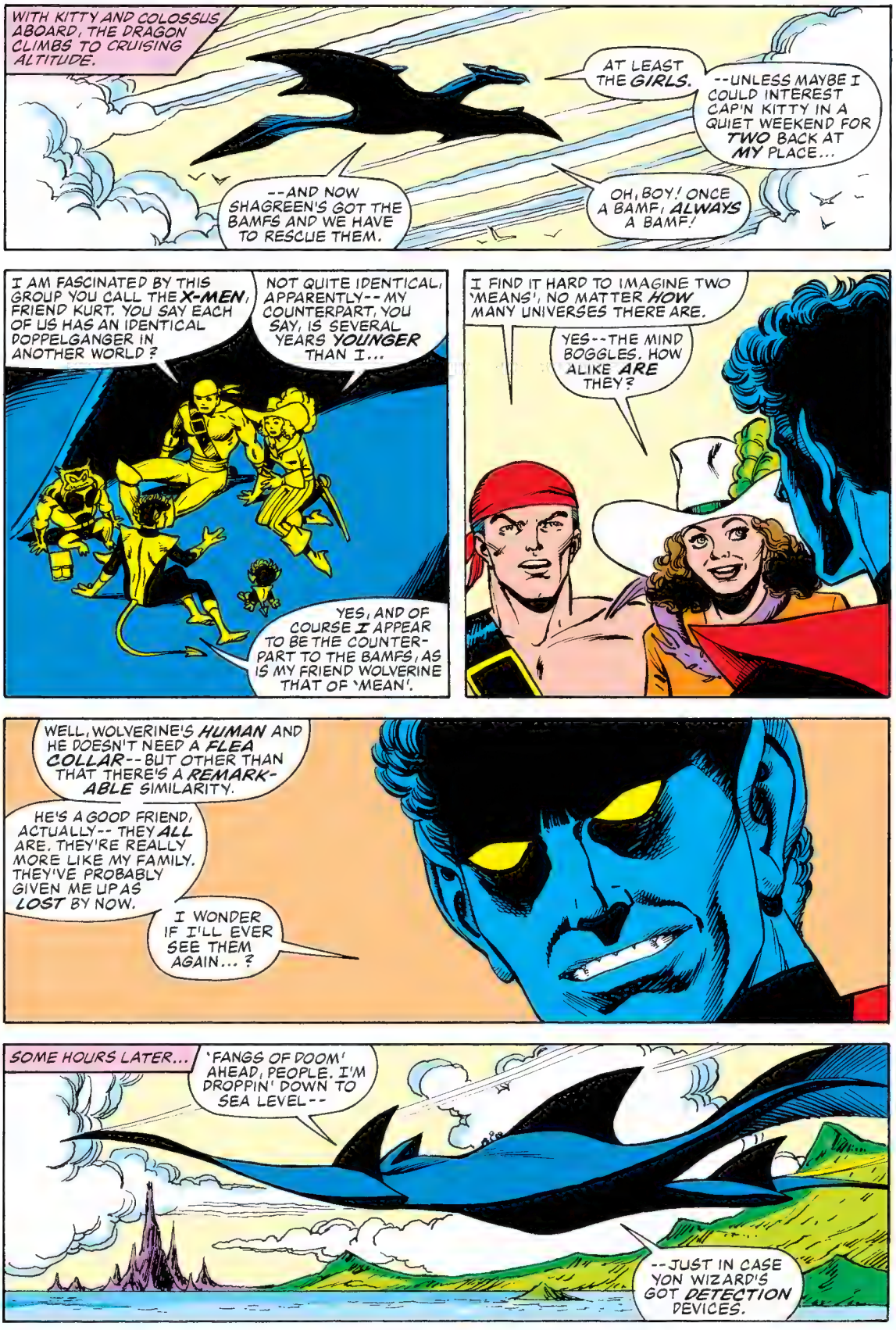
AND SO...
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THE STORYBOOK ASPECT OF ALL THIS. EVERYONE I'VE MET SO FAR IN THIS WORLD IS A LIVING COUNTERPART OF CHARACTERS IN THAT STORY KITTY ONCE TOLD ILLYANA.
I WONDER--
DO YOU GUYS KNOW A COUPLE OF PIRATES NAMED KITTY AND COLOSSUS?
O' COURSE WE DO. THEY'RE OLD MATES O' OURS.
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS--WHO ARE YOU, BOYO? Y'R TH' BIGGEST BAMF I EVER LAID EYES ON!
WELL, ACTUALLY, I'M NOT REALLY A BAMF--
NO, HE'S A BOGGIE, WHATEVER THAT IS.
I AM NOT A BOGGIE!!
WELL, WHATEVER YE ARE, HOW D'YE COME TO KNOW CAP'N KITTY AND COLOSSUS?
THAT'S A COMPLICATED STORY, I'M AFRAID.
YOU SEE, LOCKHEED--THE LITTLE ONE--AND I, ARE FROM ANOTHER WORLD, ANOTHER UNIVERSE, WHERE WE, AND EVERYONE WE KNOW, SEEM TO HAVE COUNTERPARTS ON THIS WORLD.
IN MY WORLD, KITTY IS A YOUNG GIRL. ALL OF YOU HERE ARE FICTIONAL VERSIONS OF US THAT KITTY MADE INTO A STORY.
HEY! HOW DO YOU KNOW WE AREN'T REAL AND YOU'RE THE FAKE!
WELL, EITHER WAY THE THEORIES ABOUT AN INFINITE NUMBER OF POSSIBLE UNIVERSES MAY HAVE SOME TRUTH BEHIND THEM.
PERHAPS ANYTHING THAT CAN HAPPEN WILL HAPPEN.
SPEAKIN' O' TH' DIVIL... UNLESS THESE OLD EYES DECEIVE ME, THAT'S KITTY AND COLOSSUS YONDER.

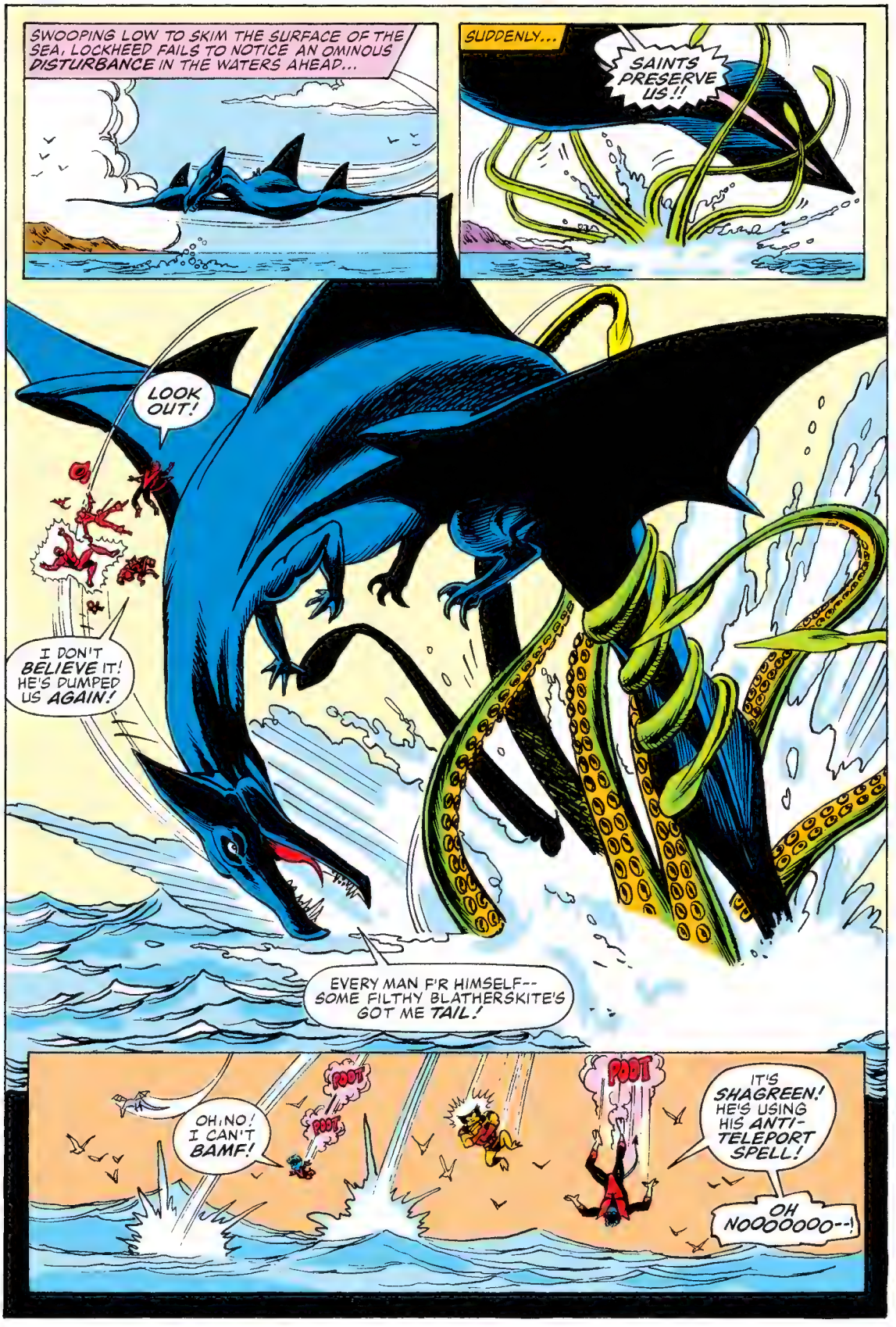

MEANWHILE, BELOW, ABOARD THE SEA ROVER ABDUL ALHAZRED...
DRAGON HO! COMIN' UP FAST ASTERN, CAP'N--
DRAGON?! HEY, WHATTAYA KNOW!
AHOY, Y'OLD LIZARD! COME ALONGSIDE! WHAT'S THE LATEST SCUTTLEBUTT?
WHERE Y'OFF TO?
I'M GIVIN' SOME FOLKS A LIFT OVER T'THE FANGS OF DOOM, T'RESCUE TH' BAMFS FROM A WIZARD.
CARE T'JOIN US?
OH, KITTY, NO...NOT AGAIN...

C'MON, COLOSSUS--DON'T BE SUCH A STICK-IN-THE-MUD! WE HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD BRAWL IN AGES!
DROP DOWN HERE, LOCKHEED, AND WE'LL COME ABOARD!
THE CREW CAN MEET US LATER, AT THE USUAL PLACE!

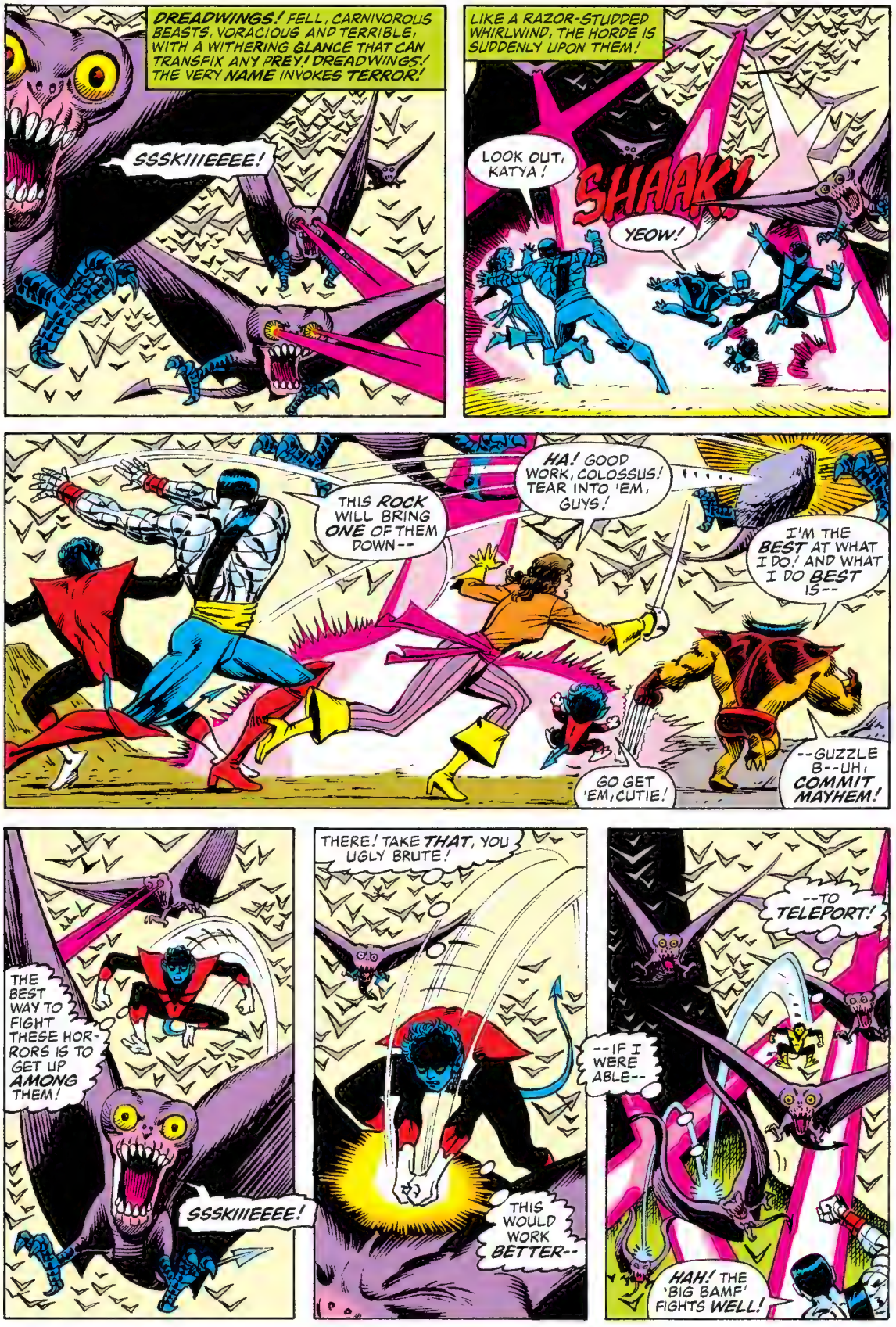

THEN WE CAN--WHOOP!
WHAT'S THIS?
COOOOOOOOOOOO!
KATYA, STAY BACK--
OH, DON'T WORRY 'BOUT JUNIOR, THERE--HE WON'T BITE...


HIS NAME'S LOCKHEED, JUST LIKE MINE. SEEMS HE COMES FR'M SOME ALTERNATE REALITY, WHERE HE'S THE PET OF A YOUNG COLLEEN WHO'S YOUR EXACT COUNTERPART.
MY COUNTERPART? HMMM. LIKES ME, DOESN'T HE?
NO ACCOUNTIN' F'R TASTE, KID.
COOOOOOOOOOOO.


WITH KITTY AND COLOSSUS ABOARD, THE DRAGON CLIMBS TO CRUISING ALTITUDE.
AT LEAST THE GIRLS.
--UNLESS MAYBE I COULD INTEREST CAP'N KITTY IN A QUIET WEEKEND FOR TWO BACK AT MY PLACE...
OH, BOY! ONCE A BAMF, ALWAYS A BAMF!
--AND NOW SHAGREEN'S GOT THE BAMFS AND WE HAVE TO RESCUE THEM.
I AM FASCINATED BY THIS GROUP YOU CALL THE X-MEN, FRIEND KURT. YOU SAY EACH OF US HAS AN IDENTICAL DOPPELGANGER IN ANOTHER WORLD?
NOT QUITE IDENTICAL, APPARENTLY-- MY COUNTERPART, YOU SAY, IS SEVERAL YEARS YOUNGER THAN I...
YES, AND OF COURSE I APPEAR TO BE THE COUNTER-PART TO THE BAMFS, AS IS MY FRIEND WOLVERINE THAT OF 'MEAN'.
I FIND IT HARD TO IMAGINE TWO 'MEANS', NO MATTER HOW MANY UNIVERSES THERE ARE.
YES--THE MIND BOGGLES. HOW ALIKE ARE THEY?
WELL, WOLVERINE'S HUMAN AND HE DOESN'T NEED A FLEA COLLAR--BUT OTHER THAN THAT THERE'S A REMARK-ABLE SIMILARITY.
HE'S A GOOD FRIEND, ACTUALLY-- THEY ALL ARE. THEY'RE REALLY MORE LIKE MY FAMILY. THEY'VE PROBABLY GIVEN ME UP AS LOST BY NOW.
I WONDER IF I'LL EVER SEE THEM AGAIN...?
SOME HOURS LATER...
'FANGS OF DOOM' AHEAD, PEOPLE. I'M DROPPIN' DOWN TO SEA LEVEL--
--JUST IN CASE YON WIZARD'S GOT DETECTION DEVICES.


SWOOPING LOW TO SKIM THE SURFACE OF THE SEA, LOCKHEED FAILS TO NOTICE AN OMINOUS DISTURBANCE IN THE WATERS AHEAD...
SUDDENLY...
SAINTS PRESERVE US!!
LOOK OUT!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HE'S DUMPED US AGAIN!
EVERY MAN F'R HIMSELF-- SOME FILTHY BLATHERSKITE'S GOT ME TAIL!
OH, NO! I CAN'T BAMF!
POOT
POOT
POOT
IT'S SHAGREEN! HE'S USING HIS ANTI-TELEPORT SPELL!
OH NOOOOOOO--!

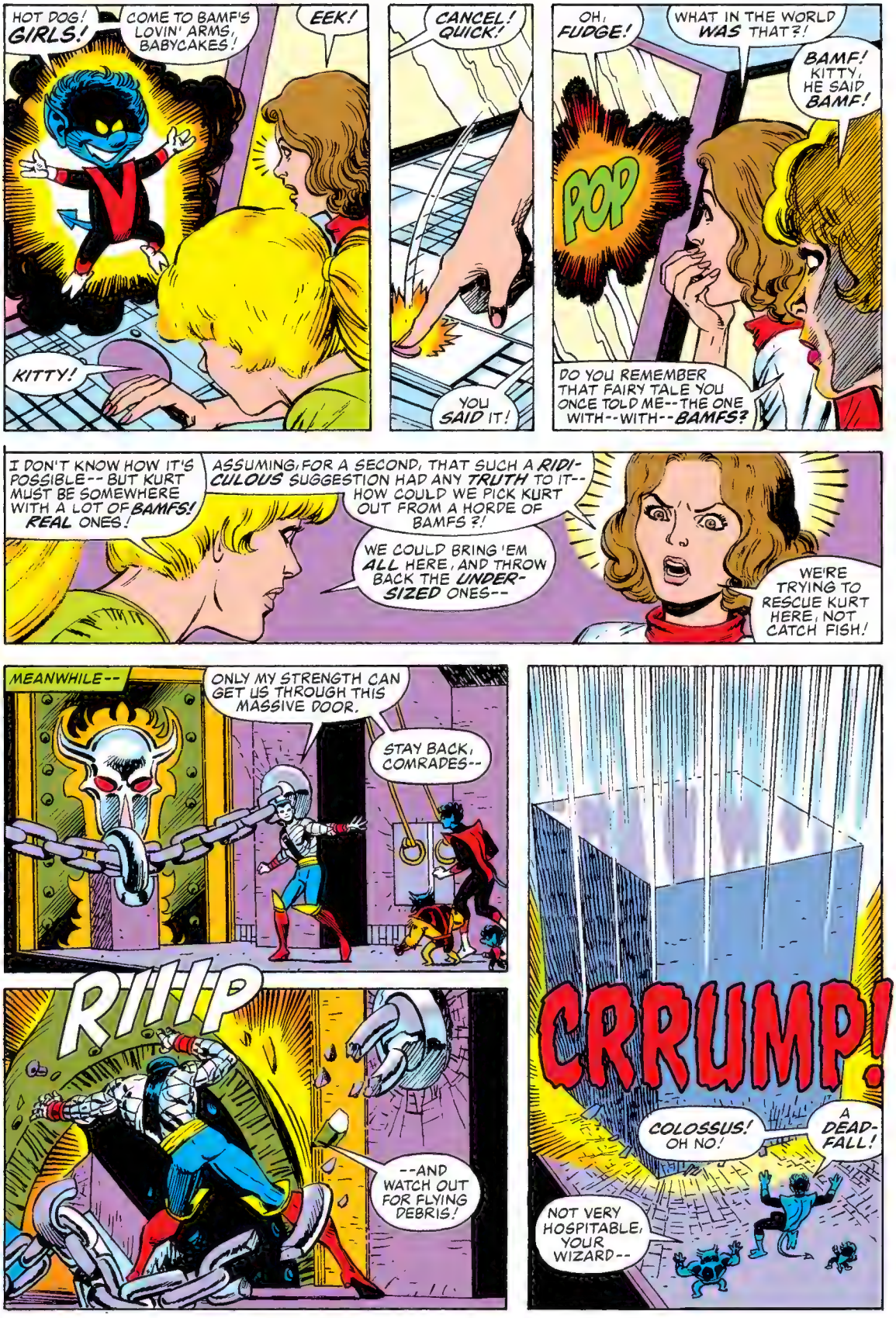
A FEW SOGGY MOMENTS LATER...
KOFF! SPUTT!
THERE MUST BE EASIER WAYS OF DISMOUNTING A DRAGON--
WIZARD'S -ISLAND- GET LOST!
THAT'S-- KOFF--WHAT I KEEP SAYING. BUT SOMEHOW, THIS IS HOW IT ALWAYS HAPPENS! KOFF!
WET!
I HATE WET!
IT MAKES ME WANNA KILL SOMETHING!
IT ALSO MAKES YOU SMELL LIKE AN AARDVARK!
LOCKHEED--!
OH, NO! HE'S GONE UNDER!
WHAT DO WE DO?
WE HOPE HE CAN HOLD HIS BREATH FOR A LOOOOONG TIME, THAT'S WHAT!
RIGHT NOW, I'D SAY WE HAVE PROBLEMS OF OUR OWN. LOOK!
SWEEPING OUT FROM THE HIGH KEEP--A FLIGHT OF STRANGE BIRDS!
I'VE SEEN THOSE THINGS BEFORE, COLOSSUS. THEY'RE NOT BIRDS--
--THEY'RE DREADWINGS!
SSSKIIEEEE!
OH, FUDGE!


DREADWINGS! FELL, CARNIVOROUS BEASTS, VORACIOUS AND TERRIBLE, WITH A WITHERING GLANCE THAT CAN TRANSFIX ANY PREY! DREADWINGS! THE VERY NAME INVOKES TERROR!
SSSKIIIEEEE!
LIKE A RAZOR-STUDDED WHIRLWIND, THE HORDE IS SUDDENLY UPON THEM!
LOOK OUT, KATYA!
SHAAK!
YEOW!
THIS ROCK WILL BRING ONE OF THEM DOWN--
HA! GOOD WORK, COLOSSUS! TEAR INTO 'EM, GUYS!
I'M THE BEST AT WHAT I DO! AND WHAT I DO BEST IS--
GO GET 'EM, CUTIE!
--GUZZLE B--UH, COMMIT MAYHEM!
THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT THESE HORRORS IS TO GET UP AMONG THEM!
SSSKIIIEEEE!
THERE! TAKE THAT, YOU UGLY BRUTE!
THIS WOULD WORK BETTER--
--IF I WERE ABLE--
--TO TELEPORT!
HAH! THE 'BIG BAMF' FIGHTS WELL!

UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE TO LET THESE MONSTERS COME TO ME.
SKK!
POW!
BUT BY THE WHITE WOLF, ONCE I'M THROUGH WITH THEM THEY'RE NOT GOOD FOR MUCH ELSE--
SKIIIEEEE!
HOLD STILL, YOU UGLY SUCKER! I MEAN T'TAKE YOU APART!
DARN IT, MEAN-- YOU'D BE A LOT MORE EFFECTIVE IF YOU'D LOSE THE SIXPACK!
NO WAY WILL I LOSE THE SIXPACK, BABE, BUT NOTHIN' SAYS I CAN'T USE THE SIXPACK--
--IF YA KNOW WHAT I MEAN--
FLINK
MUNCH
BURP!
PTOO PTOO PTOO
HAH! CHEW ON THAT, FANGFACE!
BUT SUDDENLY--
OHH! COLOSSUS! HELP!
KATYA! OH, NO! IT'S CARRYING HER OFF!
HEY, THE KID!
DON'T WORRY, KATYA, I'LL--
YAAAA!
COLOSSUS! LOOK OUT!
SHRAAK!

COLOSSUS! ARE YOU OKAY?
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT--BUT--KITTY! THE DREADWINGS GOT KITTY!
WE MUST SAVE HER!
NOW THEY'RE BREAKING OFF THEIR ATTACK--THEY'RE LEAVING!
AND THEY'RE TAKING KITTY WITH THEM!
"THEY'RE TAKING HER UP TO THE FORTRESS.
"I DON'T THINK THERE'S MUCH DOUBT; THIS IS INTENDED AS A LITTLE INCENTIVE--
"--TO MAKE SURE WE KEEP CLIMBING."
WE'LL KEEP CLIMBING, ALL RIGHT--AND IF THAT WIZARD HAS HARMED KITTY HE SHALL ANSWER TO ME!
TO ALL OF US, COLOSSUS--WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!
WE FIND THAT CRUMMY WIZARD, WE GONNA KICK HIS BUTT!
YEAH! LET'S GO GET THAT CREEP!
LOCKHEED--SMALL LOCKHEED--IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. HE MUST'VE GONE AFTER KITTY.
SHOVE OFF!
I WISH WE HAD BIG LOCKHEED STILL WITH US--WE COULD USE HIM!
SCRAM!
I'D TURN BACK IF I WERE YOU--
YOU DON'T S'POSE THAT TENTACLED SUCKER ATE 'IM, DO YA?

HOURS LATER, THE FOUR BONE-WEARY CLIMBERS FIND AN OMINOUS DOOR INTO THE WIZARD'S STRONGHOLD...
HUH! YOU AIN'T GONNA FIND THIS IN THE PAGES OF 'HOUSE BEAUTIFUL'--
STILL, THE PATH LEADS INTO IT. WE MUST PRESS ON.
ABANDON ALL YE W ENTER HE
EXCEP TUESDAY 5:00-7
SHAGREEN KIND OF BEATS YOU OVER THE HEAD WITH HIS MESSAGE, DOESN'T HE? CHECK OUT THE SIGN.
"ABANDON HOPE ALL YE WHO ENTER HERE-- EXCEPT TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, 5-7:00 P.M."
THIS WIZARD HAS A STRANGE SENSE OF HUMOR. WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE DOES FROM 5-7 PM ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS?
EVEN WIZARDS GOTTA VISIT THE JOHN SOMETIME--
I'LL NEVER ABANDON HOPE. HE'S MY FAVORITE COMEDIAN.
SUDDENLY--
CHOMP!
THE DOOR--!
--TRAPPED LIKE BEAVERS!
MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE--
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! I'M GETTING SOME SORT OF MULTIPLE INDICATION ON KURT--
--AS THOUGH THERE WERE A COUPLE OF HUNDRED OF HIM CONFINED IN A SMALL SPACE!
MICHAEL
WELL, PUNCH THE BUTTON AND GRAB ONE OF THEM!
--BUT WHAT IF IT'S THE WRONG ONE?
AT THIS POINT I'LL SETTLE FOR ANYBODY WHO'S BLUE AND FURRY WITH A POINTY TAIL!
PUSH THE BUTTON!
I'M PUSHING! I'M PUSHING!
WHAT THE HECK--! WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO?!
EEK! KITTY--
OMIGOSH! HE SHRANK!


HOT DOG! GIRLS!
COME TO BAMF'S LOVIN' ARMS, BABYCAKES!
EEK!
KITTY!
CANCEL! QUICK!
YOU SAID IT!
OH, FUDGE!
WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS THAT?!
BAMF! KITTY, HE SAID BAMF!
POP
DO YOU REMEMBER THAT FAIRY TALE YOU ONCE TOLD ME--THE ONE WITH--WITH--BAMFS?
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT'S POSSIBLE-- BUT KURT MUST BE SOMEWHERE WITH A LOT OF BAMFS! REAL ONES!
ASSUMING, FOR A SECOND, THAT SUCH A RIDICULOUS SUGGESTION HAD ANY TRUTH TO IT-- HOW COULD WE PICK KURT OUT FROM A HORDE OF BAMFS?!
WE COULD BRING 'EM ALL HERE, AND THROW BACK THE UNDERSIZED ONES--
WE'RE TRYING TO RESCUE KURT HERE, NOT CATCH FISH!
MEANWHILE--
ONLY MY STRENGTH CAN GET US THROUGH THIS MASSIVE DOOR.
STAY BACK, COMRADES--
RIIIP
--AND WATCH OUT FOR FLYING DEBRIS!
CRRUMP!
COLOSSUS! OH NO!
A DEAD-FALL!
NOT VERY HOSPITABLE, YOUR WIZARD--

CRAAAK!
ACH!
GET BACK, TURKEYS-- THAT SUCKER'S SPLITTIN' OPEN!
AH! WHOO! WHAT A RELIEF!
TOO MUCH OF THAT CAN GIVE YOU A STIFF NECK!
WE HAVE WASTED ENOUGH TIME HERE. WE MUST FIND KITTY!
A SHORT TIME LATER...
THESE TUNNELS AND CHAMBERS GO ON FOR MILES. IT'LL BE SHEER LUCK IF WE FIND ANYTHING, AT THIS RATE.
STILL, WE MUST KEEP LOOKING.
SOMEWHERE IN THIS PLACE, SHAGREEN IS HOLDING KITTY AND A LOT OF BAMFS.
LONG WAY OFF, THOUGH--SCENT'S PRETTY THIN--
BUT STILL, 'MEAN', YOU CAN HELP GUIDE US IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION...
RIGHT, MEAN?
MEAN?!
HE'S GONE! COLOSSUS TOO!
BUT HOW--?
SUDDENLY--
BAMF
WHERE DID TH--
ACH!
I AM THE SERVANT OF SHAGREEN! SURRENDER NOW AND I SHALL BE MERCIFUL, PUNY ONES--
YOU HAVE NO HOPE OF OVERCOMING... DARK BAMF!
DARK BAMF?!?
THIS HAS GOT TO BE A BAD DREAM!

DARK BAMF WILL SMASH YOU, FOOL!
I'M OUTTA HERE!
WHAM!
AS IF THERE WASN'T ENOUGH INSANITY AROUND HERE ALREADY--
DARK BAMF!
GOOD GRIEF, WHAT NEXT?!
RUNNING WILL DO YOU NO GOOD, PUNY INSECT!
DARK BAMF CAN CATCH YOU NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO!
YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I GIVE IT THE OLD COLLEGE TRY, WON'T YOU?
HAH! GOT YOU!
OWW!
POW

CAUGHT IN A HAIL OF BLUDGEONING FISTS, KURT IS BATTERED SENSELESS BY THE MONSTROUS BAMF-THING...
WHUD!
...AND THEN DRAGGED OFF INTO THE ECHOING SHADOWS...
...TO AWAKEN MUCH LATER TO AN ALL-TOO-FAMILIAR FACE...
AT LASSST I HAVE YOU WHERE I WANT YOU, BOGGIE! ---SSS--HAVE NO HOPE OF RESSSCUE, FOR I HAVE-- SSS---ALL YOUR FRIENDSSS IN MY POWER!
YOU WILL SSSEE THEM DIE, ONE BY ONE, AND THEN--- SSS---IT WILL BE YOUR TURN!
YOUR FLESSSH AND BONE WILL BECOME THE SSSUBSTANCE OF MY OWN ARCANE POWER. THEN I, SSSHAGREEN, WILL BE THE MIGHTIESSST FORCSSE IN THISSS OR ANY WORLD!
NEXT
THE WIZARD OF OOPS!

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COCKRUM

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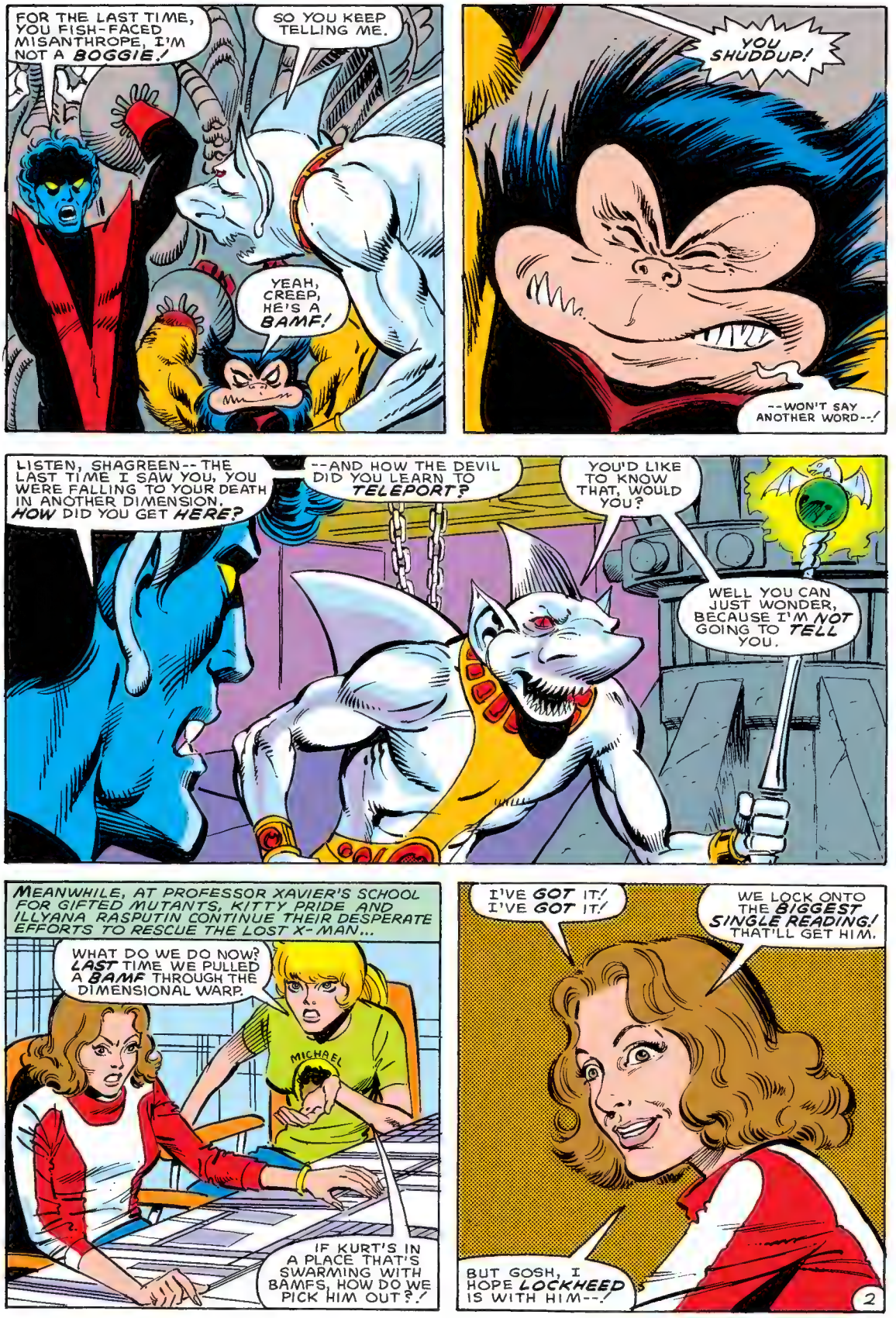
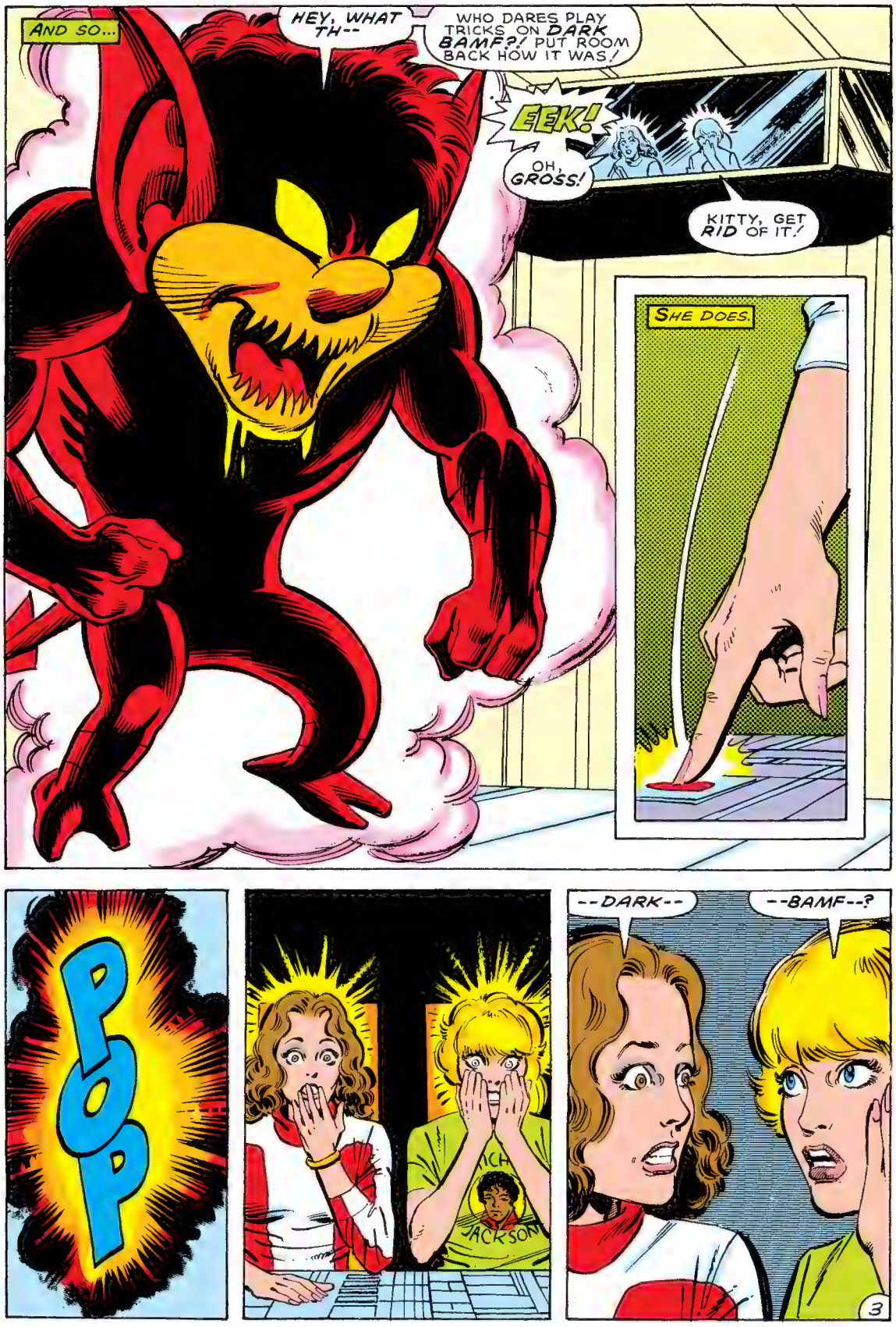
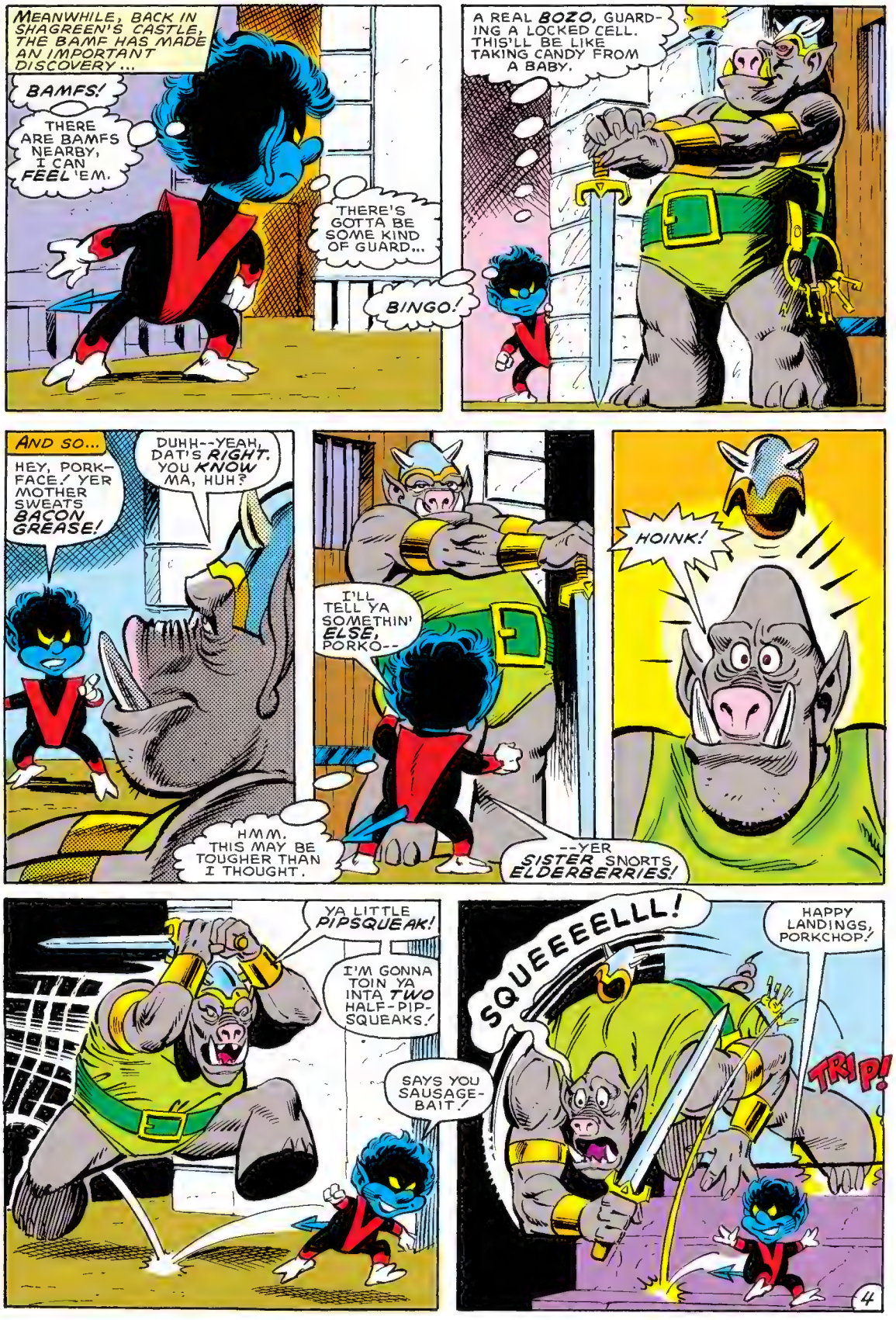
THE WIZARD OF OOPS!

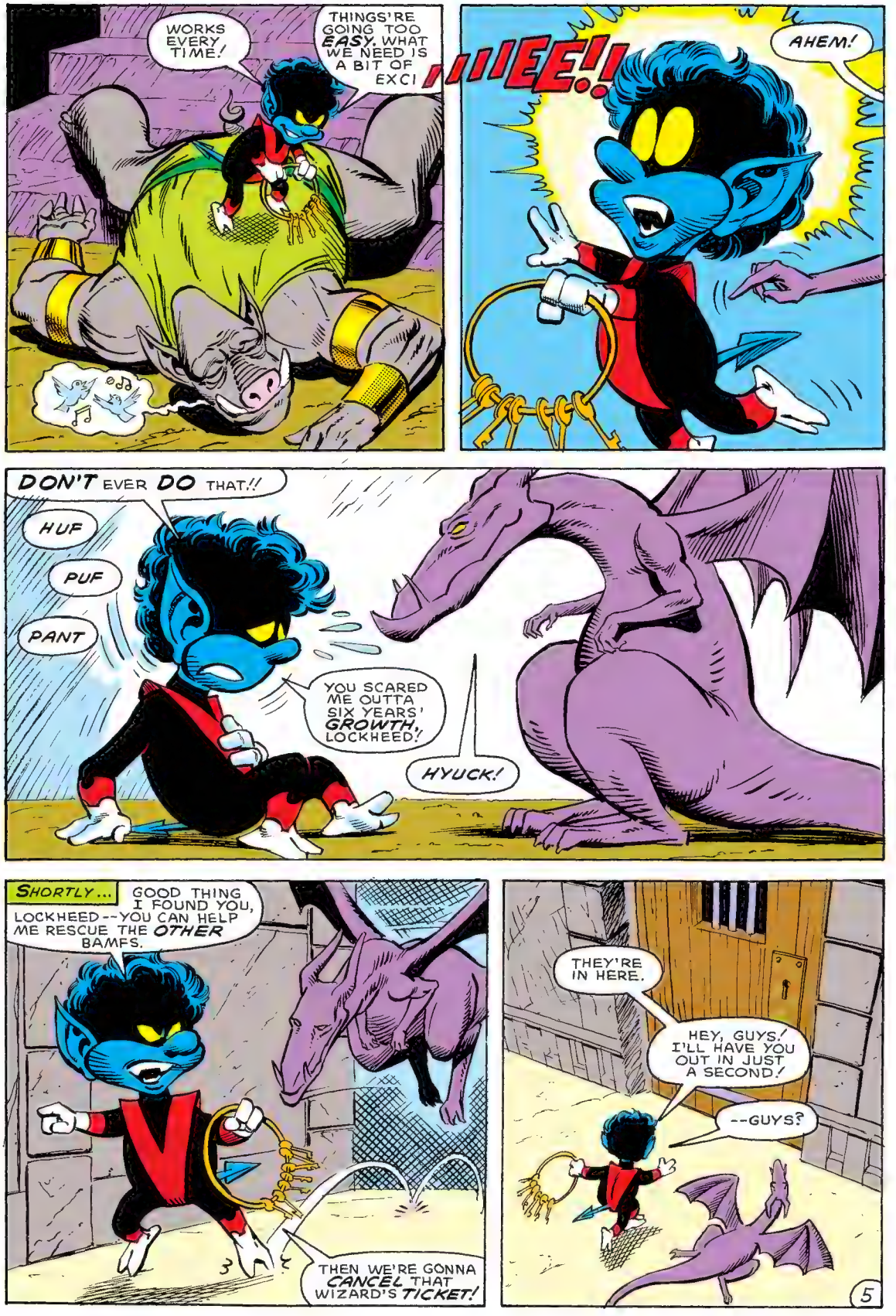
THE TASSTE OF VICTORY IS SSWEET! AT LASST I HAVE YOU WHERE I WANT YOU, BOGGIE!
--AND THE LASST TO GO SSHALL SSEE THE FIRSST THREE GO BEFORE HIM!

WRITER/PENCILER	FINISHER	COLORIST	LETTERER	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAVE COCKRUM	JOSEF RUBINSTEIN	PATY	DIANA ALBERS	ANN NOCENTI	JIM SHOOTER


FOR THE LAST TIME, YOU FISH-FACED MISANTHROPE, I'M NOT A BOGGIE!
SO YOU KEEP TELLING ME.
YEAH, CREEP, HE'S A BAMF!
YOU SHUDDUP!
--WON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD--!
LISTEN, SHAGREEN-- THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU, YOU WERE FALLING TO YOUR DEATH IN ANOTHER DIMENSION. HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
--AND HOW THE DEVIL DID YOU LEARN TO TELEPORT?
YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW THAT, WOULD YOU?
WELL YOU CAN JUST WONDER, BECAUSE I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU.
MEANWHILE, AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED MUTANTS, KITTY PRIDE AND ILLYANA RASPUTIN CONTINUE THEIR DESPERATE EFFORTS TO RESCUE THE LOST X-MAN...
WHAT DO WE DO NOW? LAST TIME WE PULLED A BAMF THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL WARP.
MICHAEL
IF KURT'S IN A PLACE THAT'S SWARMING WITH BAMFS, HOW DO WE PICK HIM OUT?!
I'VE GOT IT! I'VE GOT IT!
WE LOCK ONTO THE BIGGEST SINGLE READING! THAT'LL GET HIM.
BUT GOSH, I HOPE LOCKHEED IS WITH HIM--!
2


AND SO...
HEY, WHAT TH--
WHO DARES PLAY TRICKS ON DARK BAMF?! PUT ROOM BACK HOW IT WAS!
EEK!
OH, GROSS!
KITTY, GET RID OF IT!
SHE DOES.
POP
--DARK--
--BAMF--?
3


MEANWHILE, BACK IN SHAGREEN'S CASTLE, THE BAMF HAS MADE AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY...
BAMFS!
THERE ARE BAMFS NEARBY, I CAN FEEL 'EM.
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME KIND OF GUARD...
BINGO!
A REAL BOZO, GUARDING A LOCKED CELL. THIS'LL BE LIKE TAKING CANDY FROM A BABY.
AND SO...
HEY, PORK-FACE! YER MOTHER SWEATS BACON GREASE!
DUHH--YEAH, DAT'S RIGHT. YOU KNOW MA, HUH?
I'LL TELL YA SOMETHIN' ELSE, PORKO--
HMM. THIS MAY BE TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT.
HOINK!
--YER SISTER SNORTS ELDERBERRIES!
YA LITTLE PIPSQUEAK!
I'M GONNA TOIN YA INTA TWO HALF-PIP-SQUEAKS!
SAYS YOU SAUSAGE-BAIT!
SQUEEEELLL!
HAPPY LANDINGS, PORKCHOP!
TRIP!
4


WORKS EVERY TIME!
THINGS'RE GOING TOO EASY. WHAT WE NEED IS A BIT OF EXCI
,,,,EE!!
AHEM!
DON'T EVER DO THAT!!
HUF
PUF
PANT
YOU SCARED ME OUTTA SIX YEARS' GROWTH, LOCKHEED!
HYUCK!
SHORTLY...
GOOD THING I FOUND YOU, LOCKHEED--YOU CAN HELP ME RESCUE THE OTHER BAMFS.
THEN WE'RE GONNA CANCEL THAT WIZARD'S TICKET!
THEY'RE IN HERE.
HEY, GUYS! I'LL HAVE YOU OUT IN JUST A SECOND!
--GUYS?
5

GUYS-- UH--
OH, MY GREAT AUNT FANNIE'S SAUERKRAUT CUPCAKES! I'VE DIED AND GONE TO HEAVEN!
IT'S THE GIRLS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT--
--AND I, LIKE AN IDIOT AM ABOUT TO LET THEM OUT.
ALL THE GIRLS, ME, A LOCKED ROOM, AND NO BAMFING. IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE!
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SHOWED UP, SPORT--
YEAH! WE WANT OUTTA HERE!
ALL RIGHT, LISTEN UP! I'M GONNA GO HAND THAT NO-GOOD WIZARD HIS HEAD! WHO'S WITH ME?
I AM!
WE ALL ARE! HE CAN'T DO THIS TO US! LET'S GO CLEAN HIS CLOCK!
YEAH! LET'S PUNCH HIS TICKET!
--CHECK HIS HAT!
--CANCEL HIS RESERVATION!
--PRESS HIS PANTS!
--KICK HIS BUCKET!
--ROTATE HIS TIRES!
THEN, LET'S GO.
CHAAARGE!
6

MEANWHILE, SHAGREEN HAS PROBLEMS OF HIS OWN...
BUT YOU JUST DISSSAPPEARED, AND THEN REAPPEARED.! WHERE DID YOU GO, YOU BRAINLESS LOUT?!
DON'T KNOW. SURE WUZ WEIRD, THOUGH--ALL STRAIGHT LINES!
WELL, DON'T DO IT AGAIN!
DARK BAMF ONLY PAWN IN GAME OF LIFE.
IDIOT!
LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE LOSING CONTROL OF YOUR OPERATION, SHAGGY.
LISSTEN, BOGGIE--I'M ABOUT TO OBLITERATE YOU. CAN'T YOU AT LEASST SSHOW A LITTLE RESSPECT?!
IN YOUR HAT, RODNEY!
SUDDENLY...
GET 'IM, GIRLS!
HYYEEEE!
7

THE CHAMBER REELS AS DOZENS OF ANGRY BAMFS SMASH EVERYTHING IN SIGHT!
BOOKS, FURNITURE, OCCULT APPARATUS-- NOTHING STANDS AGAINST THEM!
WHOOP-- WOW! WHAT'S HE?!
UH-OH...
HUBBA-HUBBA!
WOTTA HUNK! HEY, GIRLS! LOOK!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THE GIRLS ARE AS BAD AS THE GUYS!
HOW 'BOUT A KISS, TALL DARK AND BAMFSOME?
HEY, I SAW HIM FIRST!
YECCH! I THINK I'M GONNA THROW UP!
GET AWAY FROM ME!!
≥ SIGH ≤ HE'S SO FORCE-FUL!
MEANWHILE...
YOU DARE! YOU ATTACK ME IN MY VERY OWN SSANCTUM!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THISS SSMALL RABBLE!
ENOUGH!!

PEACE AND QUIET AT LASST!
BUT--SS-- THESSE BOGLET WRETCHES HAVE CROSSED MY PATH ONCE TOO OFTEN.
THEY MUST BE DEALT WITH ONCE AND FOR ALL!
SAY GOODBYE TO THEM, BOGGIE--
BUT SHAGREEN'S OMINOUS INTENTIONS NEVER COME TO FRUITION, FOR HE SUDDENLY EXPERIENCES A TERRIBLE FEELING OF DEJA VU'--
SHZAAK!
AAARGH!
MY WALL-- BLOWING IN-- AGAIN!
IT'S-- WINDRIDER!
STAND YE BACK, VILE NECROMANCER! I HAVE COME FOR MY FRIENDS.
INTERFERE WITH ME AT YOUR PERIL.
9

THE BAMFS AND OTHERS ARE MY FRIENDS. RELEASE THEM INSTANTLY, WIZARD, OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!
RUBBISSH! I AM THE POWER HERE, WINDRIDER, NOT YOU. BEGONE, OR ELSSE YOU SSHALL JOIN YOUR FRIENDS--IN DEATH.
AS YOU WISH, WIZARD--
--YOU HAVE BROUGHT THIS UPON YOURSELF.
ZASSK!
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO HASS EARNED A LESSON HERE TODAY, WOMAN...
GIVE HIM ONE FOR ME, WINDRIDER!
IT'S AMAZING HOW LIKE SHE IS TO STORM, AS STORM WAS WHEN WE FIRST MET.
IF ONLY WE COULD GET FREE, WE COULD HELP!
YEAH KITTY-- I'D LIKE TA SLICE SOME SHARK-STEAKS...
I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THAT. THIS--THING --WE'RE BEING HELD BY APPEARS TO BE ALIVE.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND WEAK SPOTS USING MY TAIL. MAYBE I CAN WORK ONE OF US FREE.
10

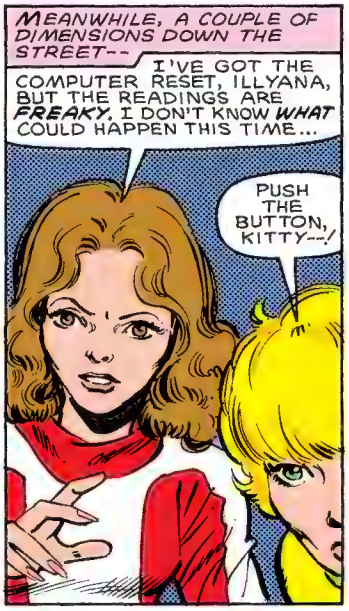
HEY, MEAN, I CAN REACH YOU WITH MY TAIL. LET ME KNOW IF--
GIGGLE
WHAT TH--WHO GIGGLED?
AHA! NOT ONLY IS THIS THING ALIVE--
NYA-HA-HAAA!
IT'S TICKLISH!
TICKLE
TICKLE
GIGGLE GIGGLE
TICKLE
GIGGLE GIGGLE
TICKLE
GIGGLE GAG
TICKLE
GIGGLE GIGGLE
GASP GUF GUF
GUFFAW!
WHEEEEEZE HUH HOO HOOP HICCUP
YOU AIN'T FOOLIN', IT'S TICKLISH!
LOOKING OUT THROUGH THE HOLE BLASTED IN THE WALL, PIRATE KITTY SEES A FAMILIAR FACE...
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, Y'BIG GALOOT? AND WHAT ABOUT THAT TENTACLED THING THAT GRABBED YOU?
OH, THAT. IT WUZ DELICIOUS. THEN I WENT T'FETCH WINDRIDER. I FIGURED Y'COULD USE SOME MAGICAL HELP.
YOU FIGURED PRETTY GOOD, BUDDY BOY.
11

WITH SHAGREEN EMBATTLED, THE BAMFS REVIVE AND DUCK FOR COVER...
EEK!
OUTTA THE WAY, SIS--THIS'S NO PLACE FOR A SINGLE GIRL!
I DO NOT DUCK FOR COVER--
I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THIS WIZARD
LEAVE BOSS ALONE, TINPOT!
SMASH!
SHAGREEN IS STILL USING A STAFF AS HIS POWER-SOURCE. I WONDER...
--IS HE DUMB ENOUGH TO'VE LEFT HIMSELF THE SAME VULNERABLE SPOT?
BULLSEYE!
TCHINKLE!

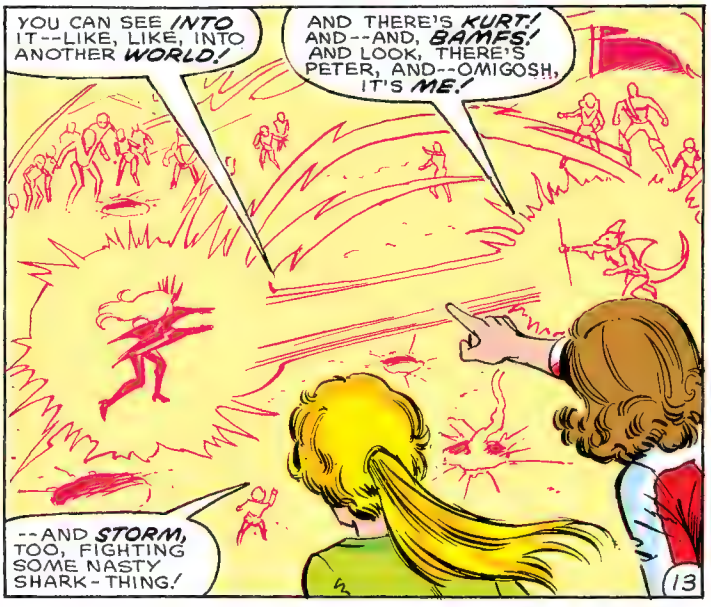
BUT--
WHOOF!
THAT WON'T WORK A SSSECOND TIME BOGGIE--!
VOMP!

I'M NOT ASSS SSSTUPID ASSS YOU OBVIOUSSSLY THINK, BOGGIE--MY SSSPELLSSS ARE COUCHED IN A DIFFERENT HOSSST THISSS TIME.
YOU'LL NOT SSSTOP ME THAT WAY AGAIN.

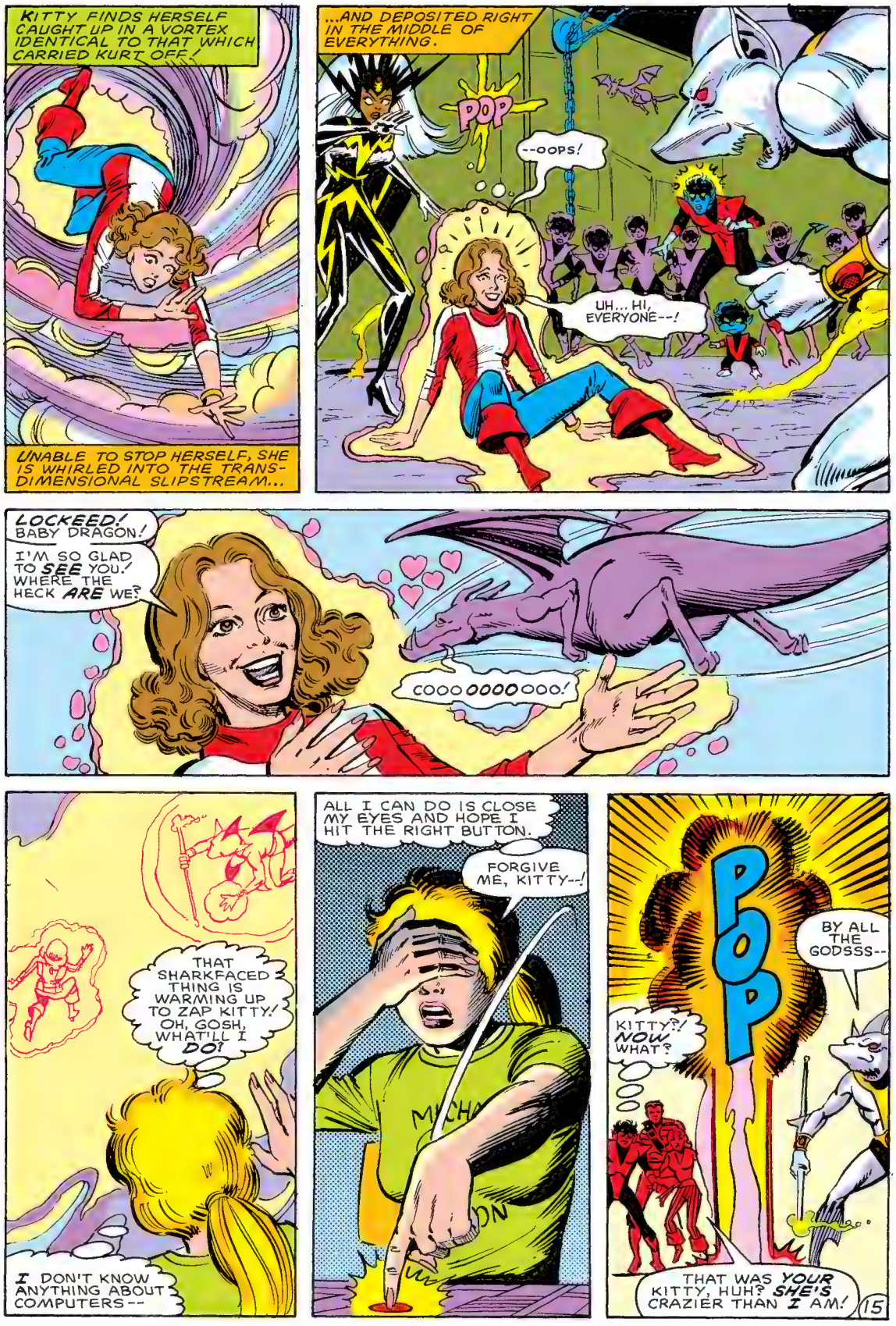
WELL, IT WAS WORTH A TRY--
OOH, POOR BOY--CAN I KISS IT AND MAKE IT BETTER?
NO, ME!
LADIES, PLEASE! THIS IS THE WRONG TIME AND PLACE--AND BESIDES YOU ALL LOOK LIKE MY KID SISTER OR SOMETHING.
LOVE WILL FIND A WAY, STUDMUFFINS!


MEANWHILE, A COUPLE OF DIMENSIONS DOWN THE STREET--
I'VE GOT THE COMPUTER RESET, ILLYANA, BUT THE READINGS ARE FREAKY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT COULD HAPPEN THIS TIME...
PUSH THE BUTTON, KITTY--!

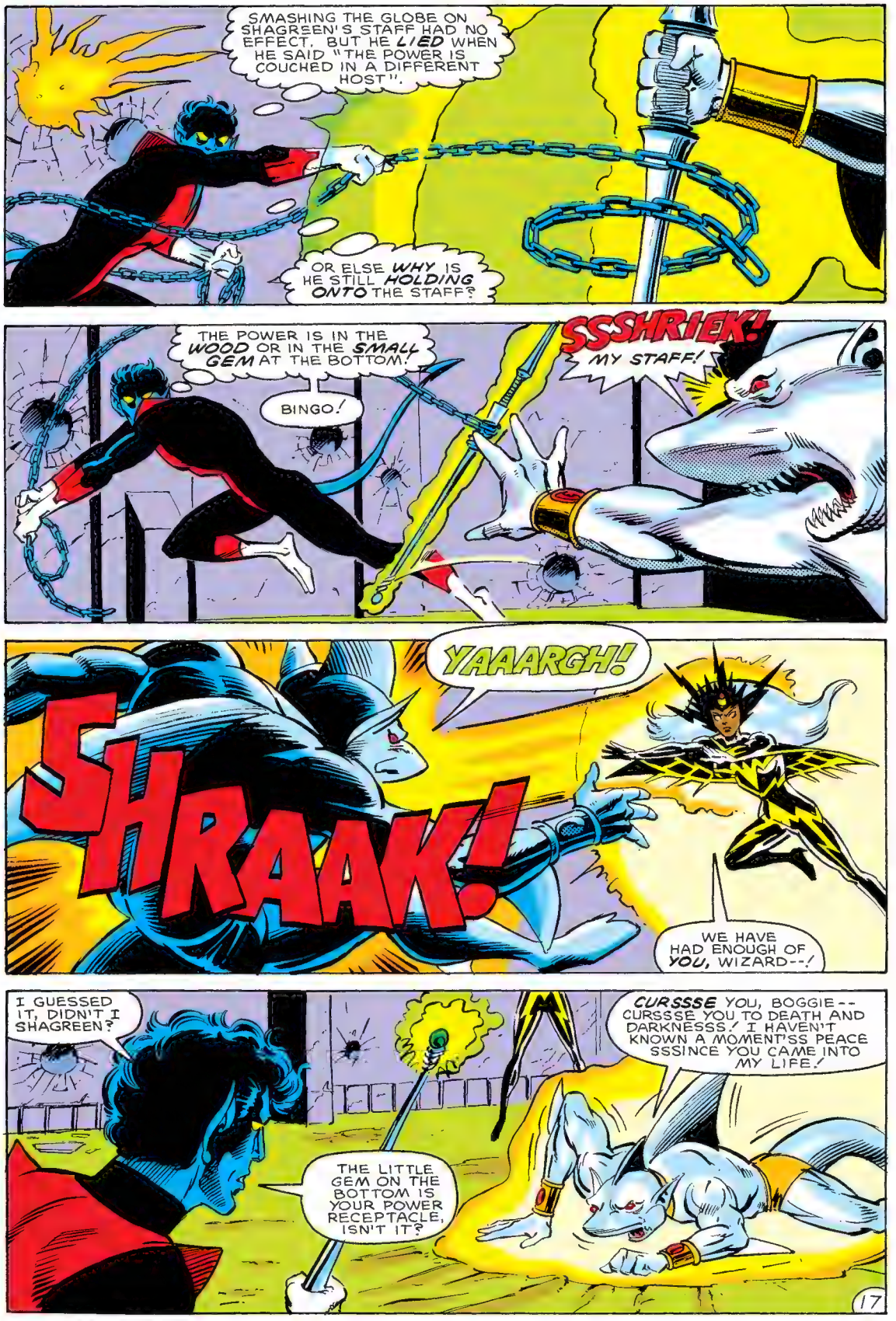
SHE DOES--AND DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS ARE RUPTURED! THE VAST FLOW OF MYSTICAL ENERGY FROM SHAGREEN AND WINDRIDER BREACHES THE GAP, LINKING THE TWO DIMENSIONS INTO A TWO-WAY CIRCUIT!
EEEK--KITTY!
I CAN'T--STOP IT!
WAIT, KITTY--LOOK!


YOU CAN SEE INTO IT--LIKE, LIKE, INTO ANOTHER WORLD!
AND THERE'S KURT! AND--AND, BAMFS! AND LOOK, THERE'S PETER, AND--OMIGOSH, IT'S ME!
--AND STORM, TOO, FIGHTING SOME NASTY SHARK-THING!

LOOK, ILLYANA--THEY CAN SEE US DOWN THERE! SEE, WE REALLY STARTLED THAT SHARKY BOZO.
KITTY AND ILLYANA?! WHAT IN--
MAYBE WE CAN HELP THEM!
LOOK--WHO ARE THEY?
WHO CARES? WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE GIRLS--!
AHEM
I AM THE GREAT AND POWERFUL WIZARD OF--
SHAZZ
KEEP OUT OF THIS, FOOL!
ZAK
EEK! KITTY! YOU'RE FALLING INTO IT!
14


KITTY FINDS HERSELF CAUGHT UP IN A VORTEX IDENTICAL TO THAT WHICH CARRIED KURT OFF!
UNABLE TO STOP HERSELF, SHE IS WHIRLED INTO THE TRANS-DIMENSIONAL SLIPSTREAM...
...AND DEPOSITED RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING.
POP
--OOPS!
UH... HI, EVERYONE--!
LOCKEED! BABY DRAGON!
I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU! WHERE THE HECK ARE WE?
COOOOOOOOOO!
THAT SHARKFACED THING IS WARMING UP TO ZAP KITTY! OH, GOSH, WHAT'LL I DO?
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT COMPUTERS--
ALL I CAN DO IS CLOSE MY EYES AND HOPE I HIT THE RIGHT BUTTON.
FORGIVE ME, KITTY--!
POP
BY ALL THE GODSSS--
KITTY?! NOW WHAT?
THAT WAS YOUR KITTY, HUH? SHE'S CRAZIER THAN I AM!
15

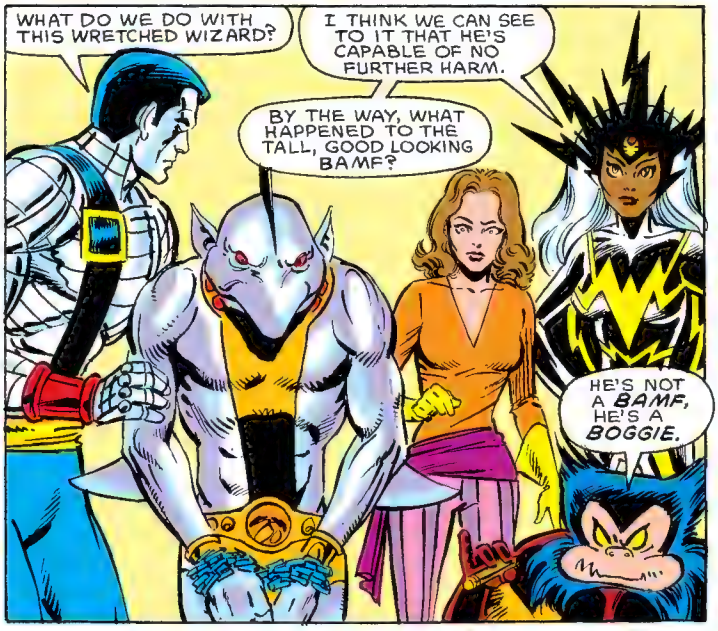
KITTY! GOOD GRIEF, IT WORKED!
ILLYANA! WHAT DID YOU DO?
MICHAEL
MAYBE WE CAN RESCUE KURT THE SAME WAY! WHAT DID YOU DO?!
I DON'T KNOW!
I WASN'T LOOKING!
MEANWHILE, THE BATTLE CONTINUES. SHAGREEN AND WINDRIDER ARE FAIRLY EVENLY MATCHED IN THIS STRUGGLE...
...BUT WINDRIDER IS LABORING UNDER A TERRIBLE DISADVANTAGE--SHE IS NOT ONLY BATTLING SHAGREEN, SHE'S ALSO TRYING TO PROTECT ALL THE BYSTANDERS FROM HIS ATTACKS.
WINDRIDER COULD LOSE THIS BATTLE IF SHE DOESN'T GET SOME HELP. WHAT COULD I--
SHAGREEN, YOU FOXY OLD SO-AND-SO! YOU ALMOST HAD ME FOOLED.
HEY! I'VE GOT IT!
SNAP
GOOD, HE HASN'T SPOTTED ME. THIS LENGTH OF CHAIN SHOULD DO THE TRICK--
16


SMASHING THE GLOBE ON SHAGREEN'S STAFF HAD NO EFFECT. BUT HE *LIED* WHEN HE SAID "THE POWER IS COUCHED IN A DIFFERENT HOST".
OR ELSE *WHY* IS HE STILL *HOLDING ONTO* THE STAFF?
THE POWER IS IN THE *WOOD* OR IN THE *SMALL GEM* AT THE BOTTOM!
BINGO!
SSSHRIEK!
MY STAFF!
YAAARGH!
SHRAAK!
WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF *YOU*, WIZARD--!
I GUESSED IT, DIDN'T I SHAGREEN?
THE LITTLE GEM ON THE BOTTOM IS YOUR POWER RECEPTACLE, ISN'T IT?
CURSSSE YOU, BOGGIE-- CURSSSE YOU TO DEATH AND DARKNESSS! I HAVEN'T KNOWN A MOMENT'SS PEACE SSSINCE YOU CAME INTO MY LIFE!

THE REST OF US WILL GET SOME PEACE AND QUIET ONCE I DO THIS--
KRAAK!
AS THE GEM SHATTERS, KURT IS BLASTED BY A SUDDEN CORUSCATING FLARE OF SORCEROUS ENERGY...
ACH!
ONCE AGAIN BARRIERS ARE RUPTURED AND KURT FEELS HIMSELF FALLING THROUGH A TRANS-DIMENSIONAL VORTEX--
OH, NO-- NOT AGAIN!
AT THE SAME INSTANT, THE BEING KNOW AS 'DARK' BAMF' IS SUDDENLY WRACKED BY VIOLENT TREMORS. HIS FORM BEGINS TO SHIFT AND SHIMMER--
--AND THEN SUDDENLY BREAKS UP INTO SEVERAL HUNDRED NORMAL-SIZED BAMFS, WHO HAD BEEN MAGICALLY FUSED TOGETHER BY SHAGREEN INTO THE HUGE DARK BAMF!

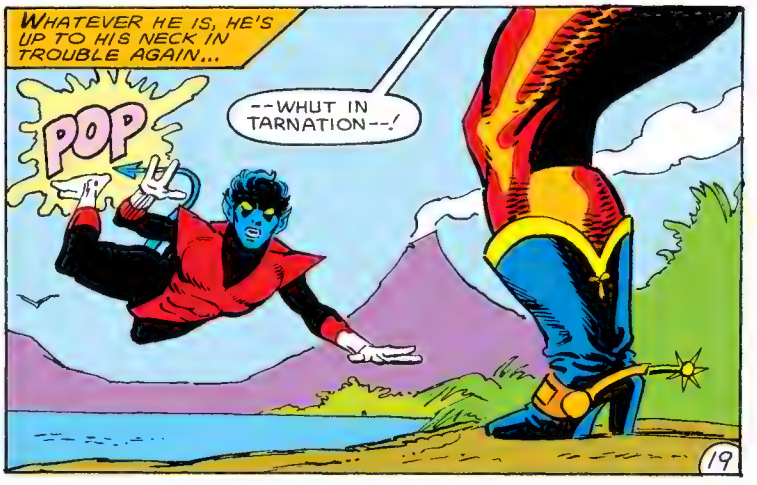
AND SO...
HEY, LOOK! IT'S THE GIRLS!
THEY'RE ALL MINE!
BACK OFF, BOZO-- I SAW 'EM FIRST!
MINE!
NO, MINE!
UH-OH! BATTLE STATIONS, GIRLS--

BAMF
BAMF
BAMF
BAMF
BAMF
BAMF
BAMF

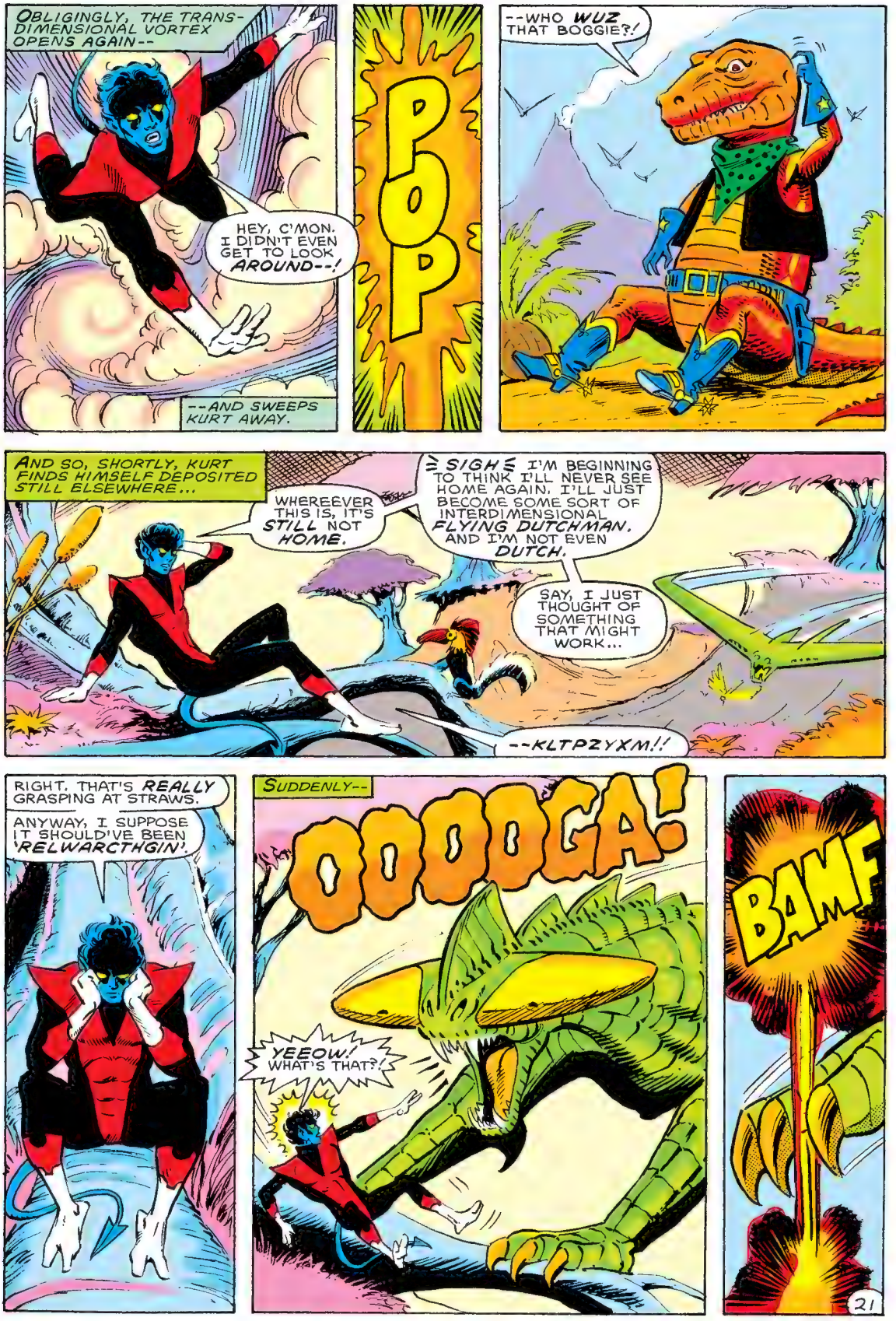

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS WRETCHED WIZARD?
I THINK WE CAN SEE TO IT THAT HE'S CAPABLE OF NO FURTHER HARM.
BY THE WAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TALL, GOOD LOOKING BAMF?
HE'S NOT A BAMF, HE'S A BOGGIE.

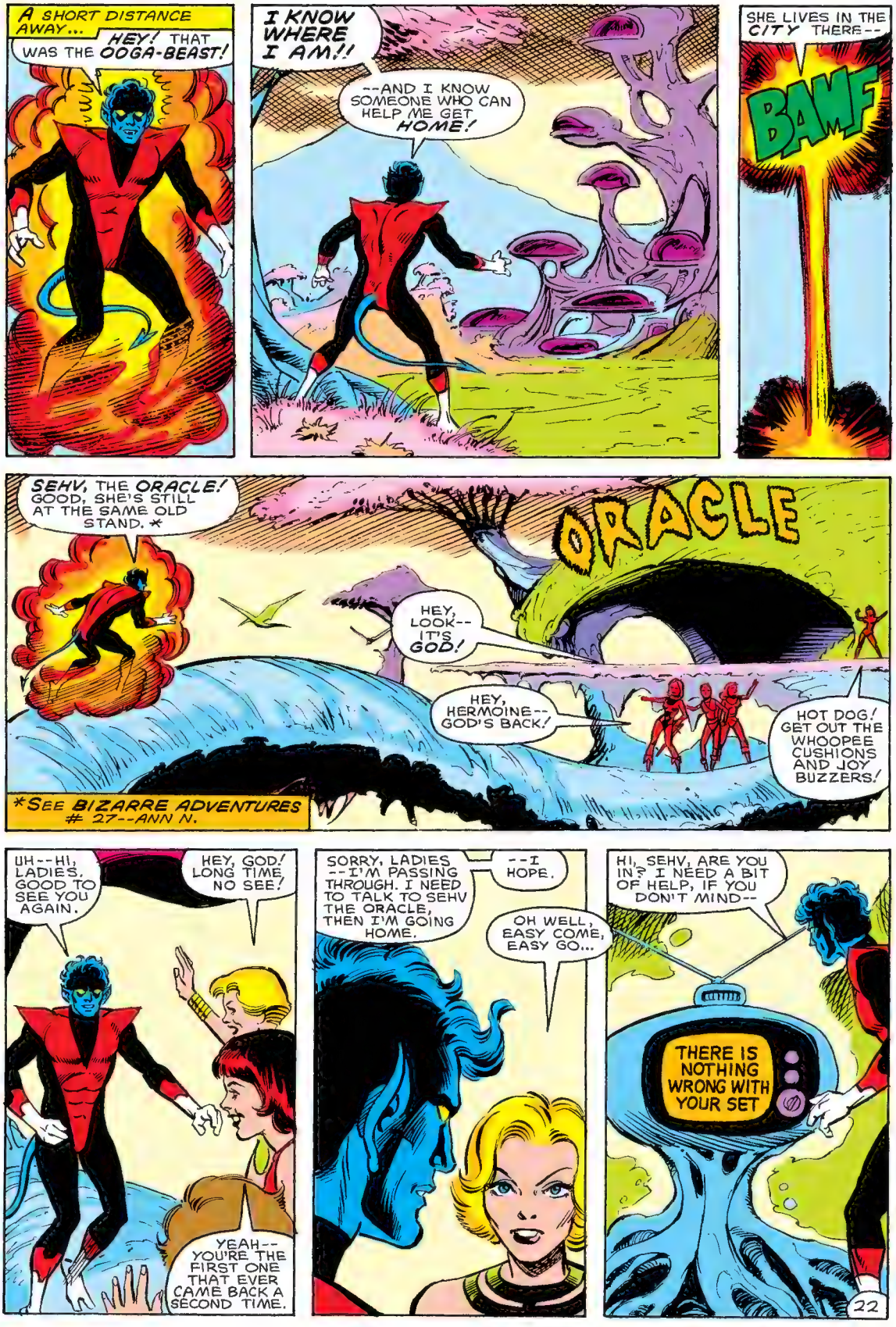
HE'S NOT A BOGGIE!

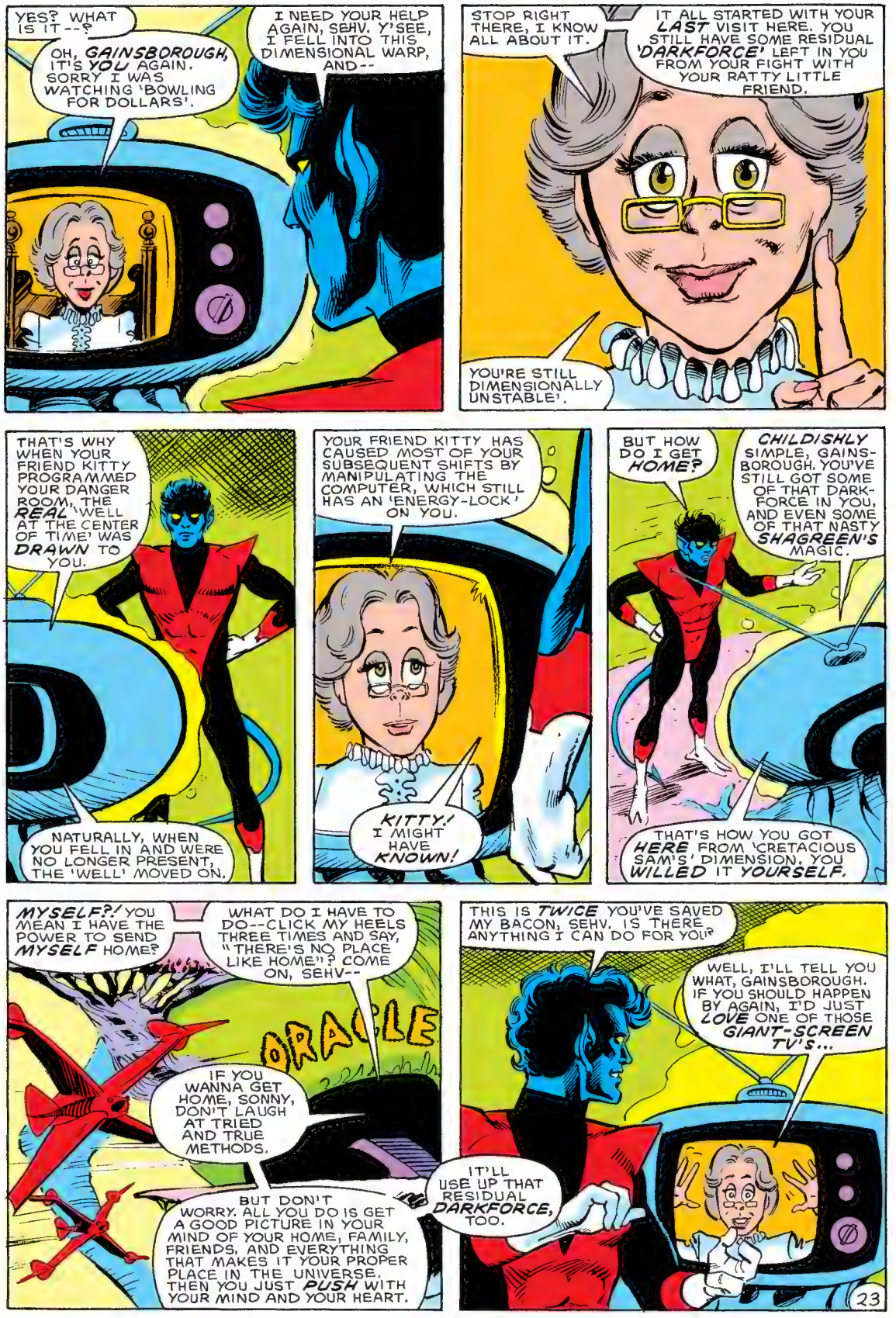
I DON'T CARE WHAT HE IS, LONG AS HE'S GONE--!


WHATEVER HE IS, HE'S UP TO HIS NECK IN TROUBLE AGAIN...
POP
--WHUT IN TARNATION--!

WAL', AH'LL BE HORNSWOGGLED! IT'S A MAMMAL!
AH'M CRETACIOUS SAM, THE ROUGHEST-TOUGHEST, RIP-ROARIN'EST, ROOTIN'-TOOTIN'EST VARMINT WEST O' TH' TAR PITS, AN' TH' ONLY THING AH HATES WORSE THAN A MAMMAL--
--IS TWO MAMMALS!
AH'M A-GONNA DRILL YOU GOOD!
GIVE ME A BREAK!
DON'T JUST SPRAWL THERE A'GETTIN' SITTY-PRINTS ON TH' LANDSCAPE, Y'NO-GOOD MAMMAL VARMINT-- STAND UP, SO'S I C'N BLAST YA!
TAKE IT EASY, FRIEND --AND WATCH WHERE YOU POINT THOSE THINGS. ANY-WAY, I--I'M NOT A MAMMAL.
OH, YEAH? WAL', WHUT ARE YOU?
I'M--
--THINK FAST, KURT--
--I'M A--A, UM--
--A BOGGIE!
POW!
A BOGGIE!?
I MUST'VE FINALLY GONE 'ROUND THE BEND! I ACTUALLY TOLD THIS OVER-GROWN LIZARD I WAS A BOGGIE!
GET ME OUT OF THIS MADHOUSE!
20


OBLIGINGLY, THE TRANS-DIMENSIONAL VORTEX OPENS AGAIN--
HEY, C'MON. I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO LOOK AROUND--!
--AND SWEEPS KURT AWAY.
POP
--WHO WUZ THAT BOGGIE?!
AND SO, SHORTLY, KURT FINDS HIMSELF DEPOSITED STILL ELSEWHERE...
WHEREEVER THIS IS, IT'S STILL NOT HOME.
≥SIGH≤ I'M BEGINNING TO THINK I'LL NEVER SEE HOME AGAIN. I'LL JUST BECOME SOME SORT OF INTERDIMENSIONAL FLYING DUTCHMAN, AND I'M NOT EVEN DUTCH.
SAY, I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING THAT MIGHT WORK...
--KLTPZYXM!!
RIGHT. THAT'S REALLY GRASPING AT STRAWS.
ANYWAY, I SUPPOSE IT SHOULD'VE BEEN 'RELWARCTHGIN'.
SUDDENLY--
OOOOGA!
YEEOW! WHAT'S THAT?!
BAMF
21


A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY...
HEY! THAT WAS THE OOGA-BEAST!
I KNOW WHERE I AM!!
--AND I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP ME GET HOME!
SHE LIVES IN THE CITY THERE--
BAMF
SEHV, THE ORACLE! GOOD, SHE'S STILL AT THE SAME OLD STAND. *
ORACLE
HEY, LOOK-- IT'S GOD!
HEY, HERMOINE-- GOD'S BACK!
HOT DOG! GET OUT THE WHOOPEE CUSHIONS AND JOY BUZZERS!
*SEE BIZARRE ADVENTURES # 27--ANN N.
UH--HI, LADIES. GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
HEY, GOD! LONG TIME NO SEE!
YEAH-- YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE THAT EVER CAME BACK A SECOND TIME.
SORRY, LADIES --I'M PASSING THROUGH. I NEED TO TALK TO SEHV THE ORACLE, THEN I'M GOING HOME.
--I HOPE.
OH WELL, EASY COME, EASY GO...
HI, SEHV, ARE YOU IN? I NEED A BIT OF HELP, IF YOU DON'T MIND--
THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH YOUR SET


YES? WHAT IS IT--?
OH, GAINSBOROUGH, IT'S YOU AGAIN. SORRY I WAS WATCHING 'BOWLING FOR DOLLARS'.
I NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN, SEHV. Y'SEE, I FELL INTO THIS DIMENSIONAL WARP, AND--
STOP RIGHT THERE, I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.
IT ALL STARTED WITH YOUR LAST VISIT HERE. YOU STILL HAVE SOME RESIDUAL 'DARKFORCE' LEFT IN YOU FROM YOUR FIGHT WITH YOUR RATTY LITTLE FRIEND.
YOU'RE STILL DIMENSIONALLY UNSTABLE'.
THAT'S WHY WHEN YOUR FRIEND KITTY PROGRAMMED YOUR DANGER ROOM, THE REAL 'WELL AT THE CENTER OF TIME' WAS DRAWN TO YOU.
NATURALLY, WHEN YOU FELL IN AND WERE NO LONGER PRESENT, THE 'WELL' MOVED ON.
YOUR FRIEND KITTY HAS CAUSED MOST OF YOUR SUBSEQUENT SHIFTS BY MANIPULATING THE COMPUTER, WHICH STILL HAS AN 'ENERGY-LOCK' ON YOU.
KITTY! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN!
BUT HOW DO I GET HOME?
CHILDISHLY SIMPLE, GAINSBOROUGH. YOU'VE STILL GOT SOME OF THAT DARKFORCE IN YOU, AND EVEN SOME OF THAT NASTY SHAGREEN'S MAGIC.
THAT'S HOW YOU GOT HERE FROM 'CRETACIOUS SAM'S' DIMENSION. YOU WILLED IT YOURSELF.
MYSELF?! YOU MEAN I HAVE THE POWER TO SEND MYSELF HOME?
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO--CLICK MY HEELS THREE TIMES AND SAY, "THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME"? COME ON, SEHV--
ORACLE
IF YOU WANNA GET HOME, SONNY, DON'T LAUGH AT TRIED AND TRUE METHODS.
BUT DON'T WORRY. ALL YOU DO IS GET A GOOD PICTURE IN YOUR MIND OF YOUR HOME, FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND EVERYTHING THAT MAKES IT YOUR PROPER PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE. THEN YOU JUST PUSH WITH YOUR MIND AND YOUR HEART.
THIS IS TWICE YOU'VE SAVED MY BACON, SEHV. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?
WELL, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, GAINSBOROUGH. IF YOU SHOULD HAPPEN BY AGAIN, I'D JUST LOVE ONE OF THOSE GIANT-SCREEN TV'S...
IT'LL USE UP THAT RESIDUAL DARKFORCE, TOO.

I'D HATE TO SAY IT, ILLYANA, BUT I'M ABOUT READY TO GIVE UP.
I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THERE'S NO WAY TO RESCUE KURT. I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING.
KITTY, WE CAN'T GIVE UP. WE HAVE TO TRY AGAIN--
SUDDENLY--
KITTY--LOOK!
FUZZY-ELF!
I'M HOME!
KITTY, WHATEVER YOU DO--DON'T TOUCH THOSE CONTROLS!
KURT! OH, WOW, THIS IS GREAT!
ILLYANA, WE ACTUALLY RESCUED HIM!
OH, FUZZY-ELF, WE THOUGHT WE'D LOST YOU FOREVER!
DON'T EVER LEAVE US AGAIN!
I PROMISE! I PROMISE! JUST DON'T BREAK MY NECK, KITTY!
LET'S GO GET SOME COOKIES AND MILK, AND YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT YOUR ADVENTURES.
I ESPECIALLY WANT TO HEAR WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE COMPUTER GRABBED OFF YOUR COSTUME! SNORT
HEY! YOU'RE TOO YOUNG FOR THAT SORT OF THING!
SEZ YOU.
YOU SHOULD SEE HER PLAYGIRL COLLECTION.
THE END.

Storm pinup by Ken Steacy
from *Marvel Fanfare* #23 (November 1985)

The Uncanny X-Men #198 cover original art
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The Uncanny X-Men #197 cover original art
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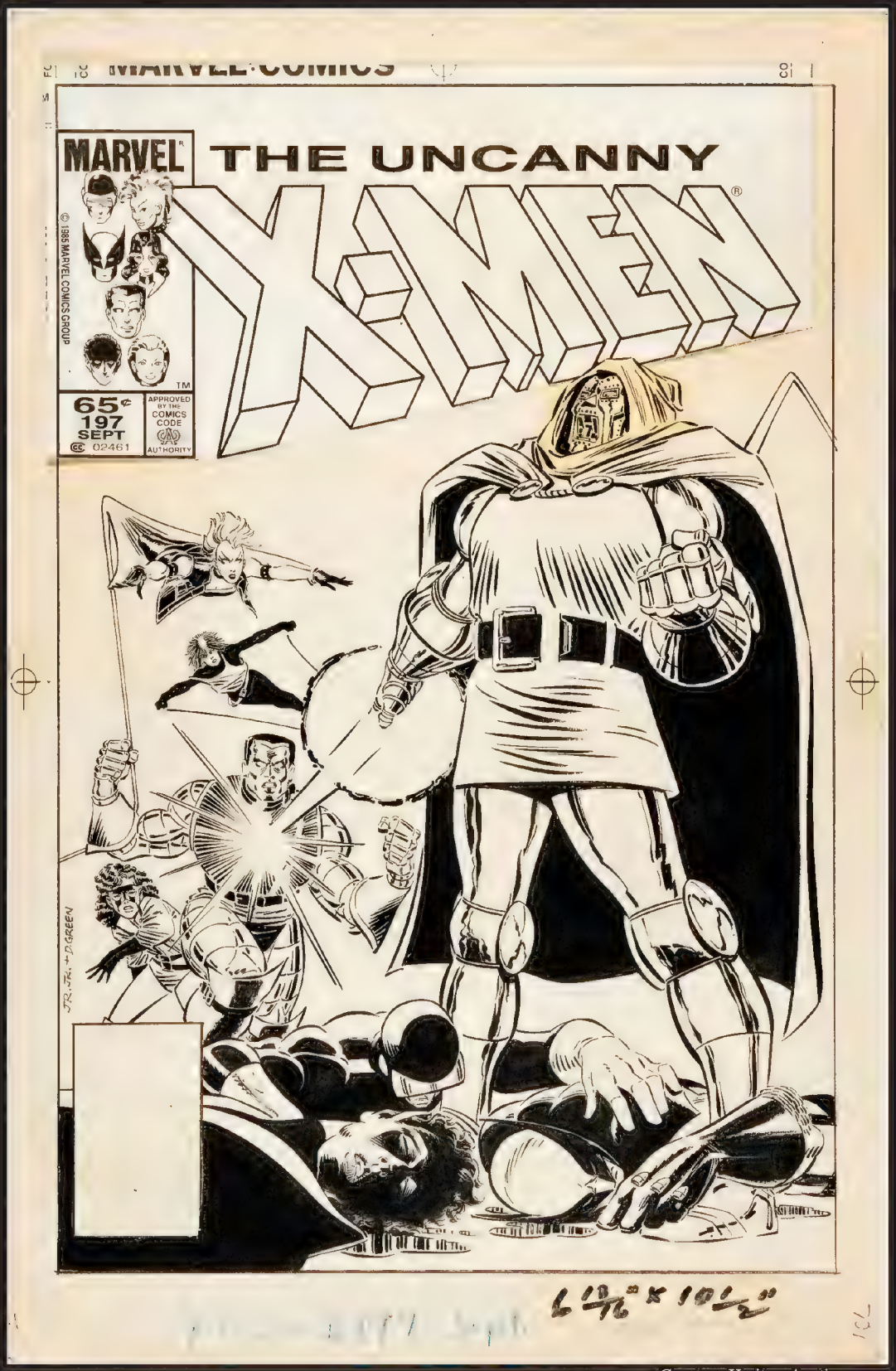

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The Uncanny X-Men #197, page 1 original art
by John Romita Jr. & Dan Green

197
1
ABOARD THE IMPERIAL SHI'AR YACHT ZREEE SHAR, IN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE MILKY WAY GALAXY...
GET AWAY FROM HER, MONSTER!
SO LONG AS COLOSSUS LIVES, NO HARM WILL COME TO THE ONE HE LOVES!
TO SAVE ARCADE?!?
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION STARRING SHADOWCAT AND COLOSSUS OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN
YAIKES!?!
PETER, WHAT IS IT, WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
WE ARE BEING ATTACKED, KATYA-- BY MY-SELF?!!

CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER ☆ JOHN ROMITA, Jr. & DAN GREEN, ARTISTS
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, letterer GLYNIS OLIVER, colorist ANN NOCENTI, editor JIM SHOOTER, editor in chief

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New Mutants Special Edition #1 cover sketch
by Arthur Adams

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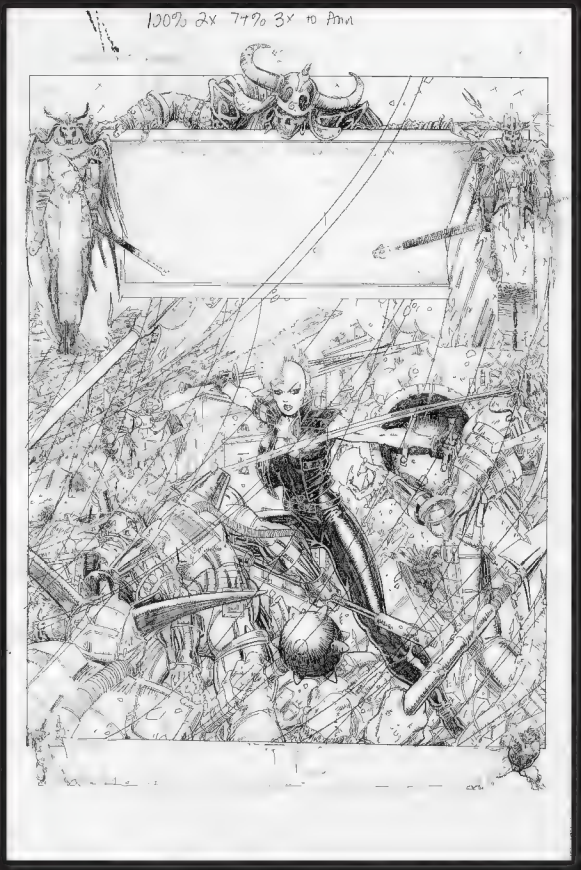

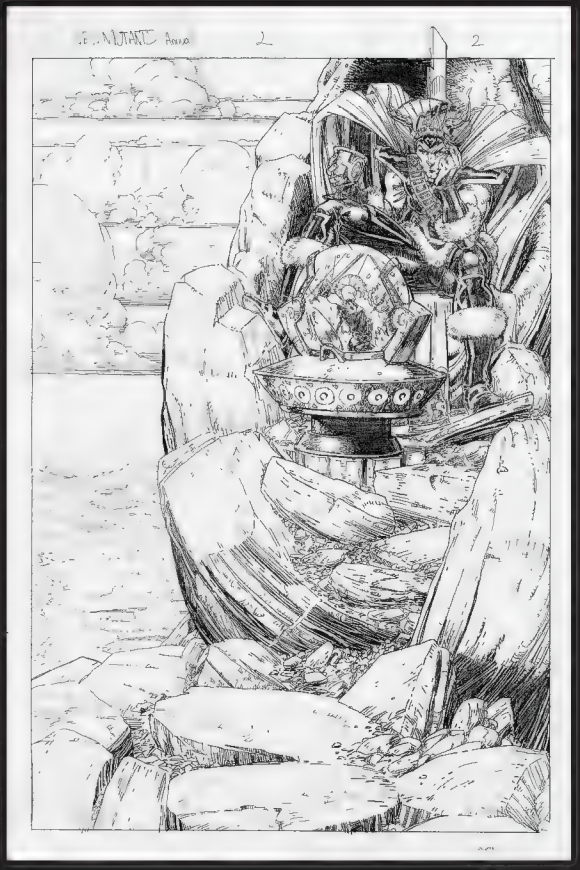

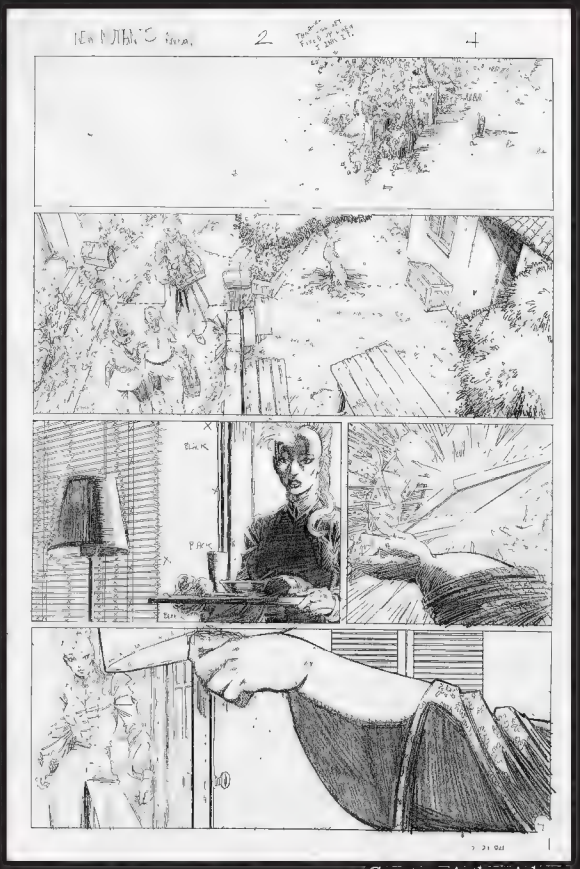

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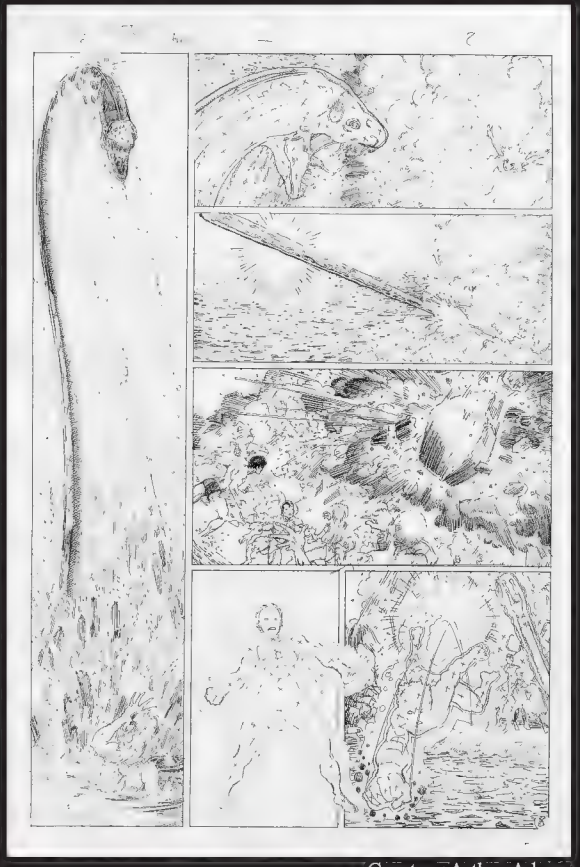

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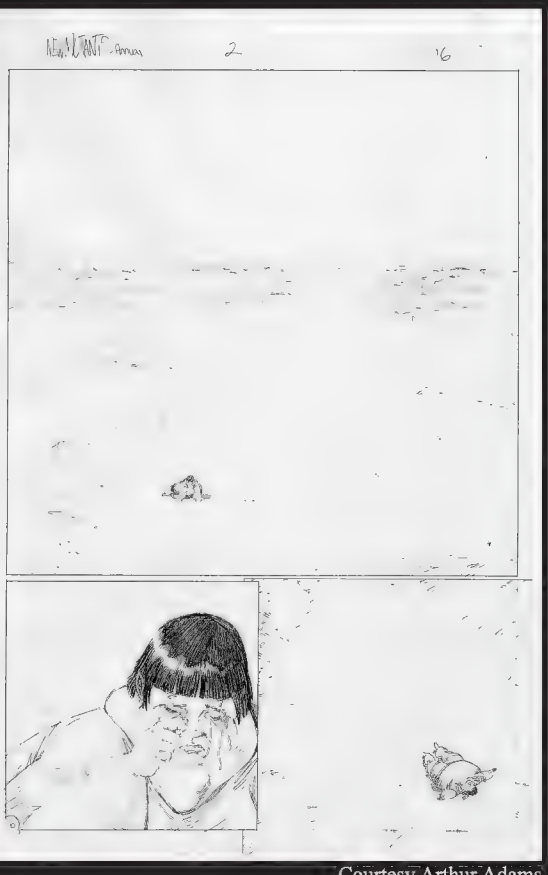
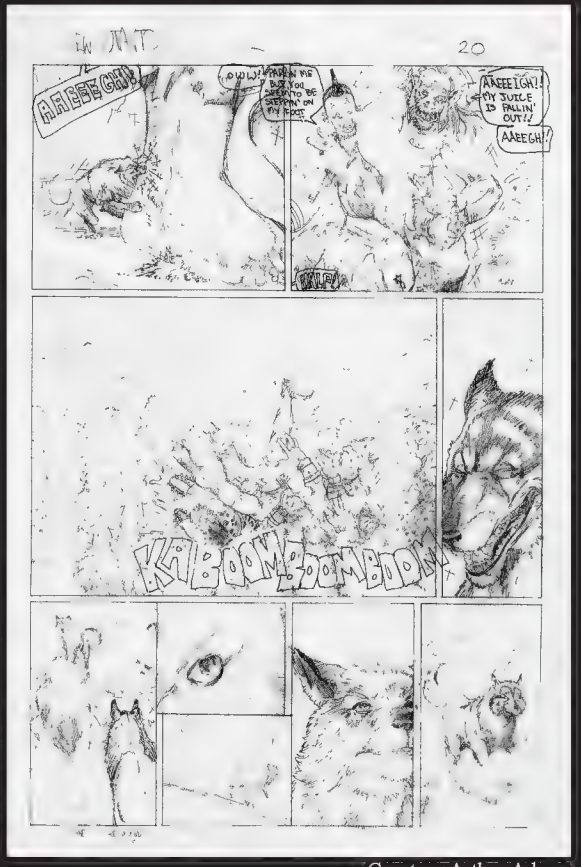


Courtesy Arthur Adams

NEW MUTANTS
19
OH MY! HEY, YOU GUYS? LOOK! I HAVE FOUND A REINDEER! IT CERTAINLY IS A DECENT REINDEER, I MUST SAY.
SHUNK
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! I AM FALLIN'!
BOOM!
HEY, THE FOREST LOOKS FUNNY CLOSE UP!
GIANT GETS STUCK AND IS TO STUPID TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET UP.



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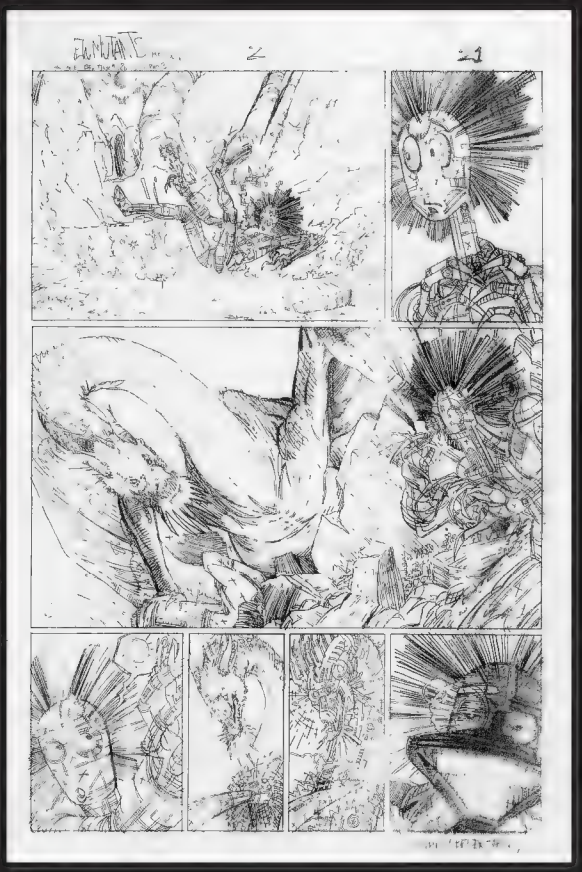

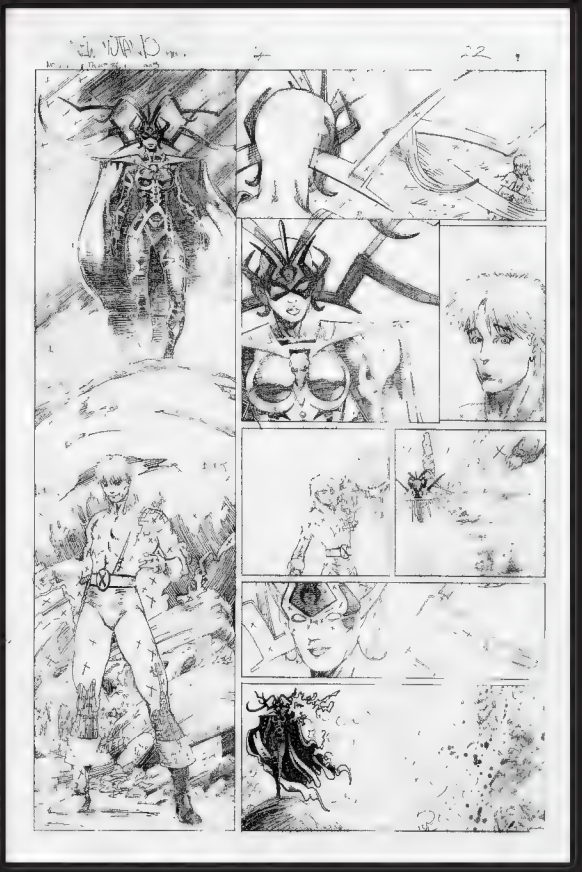

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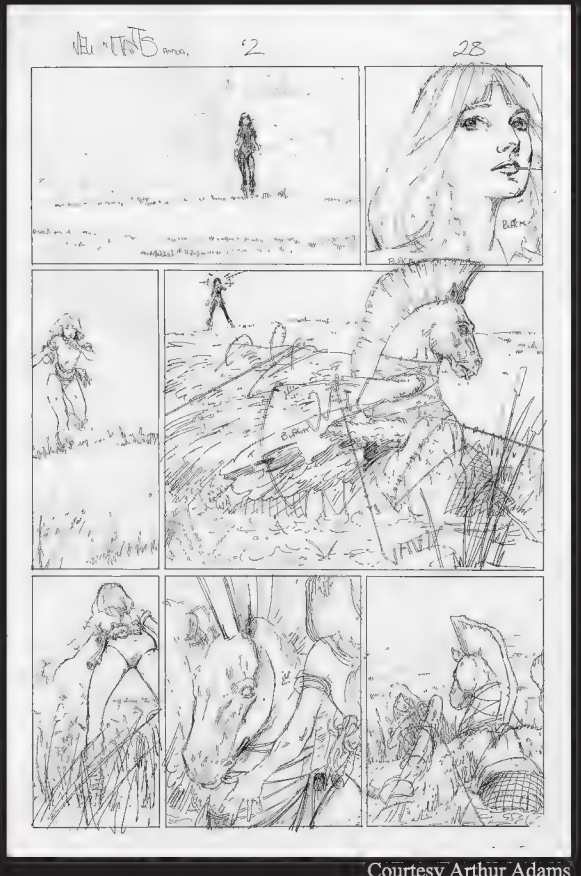

Courtesy Arthur Adams

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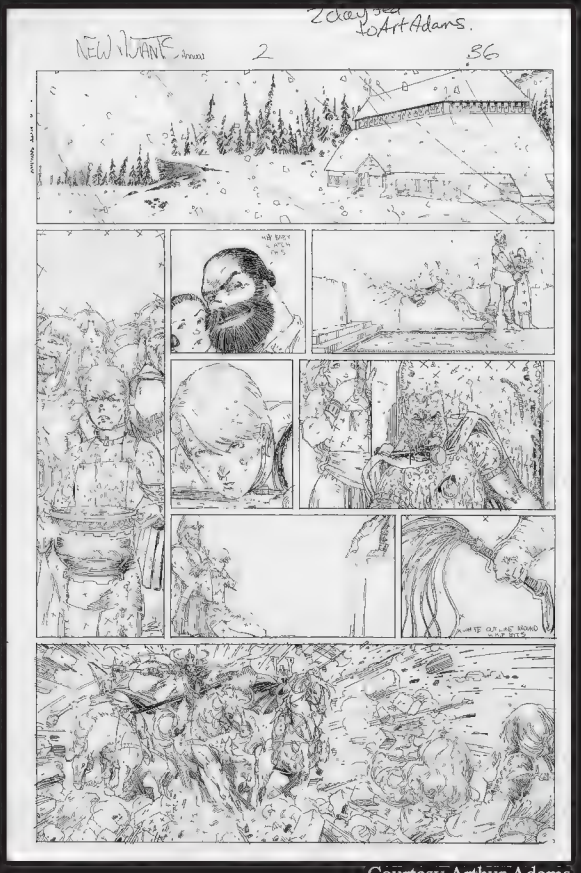

Courtesy Arthur Adams

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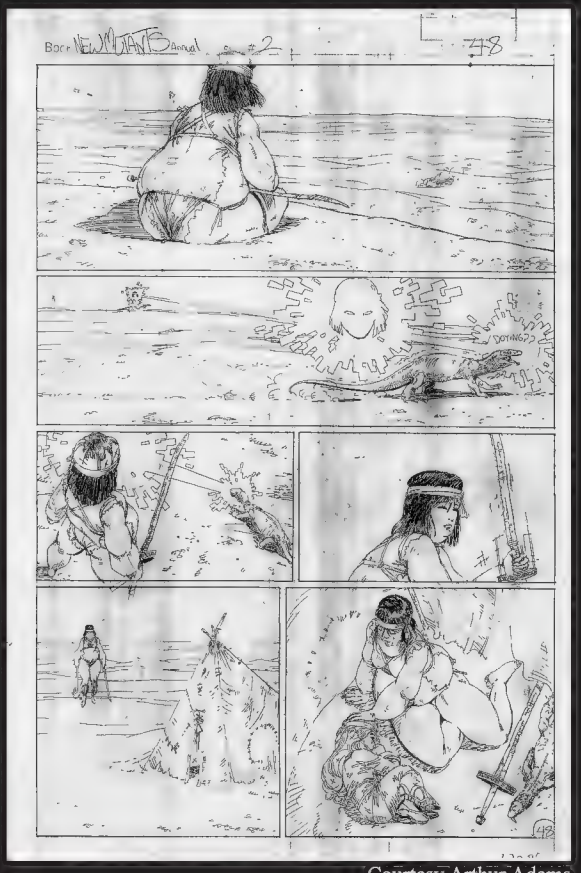
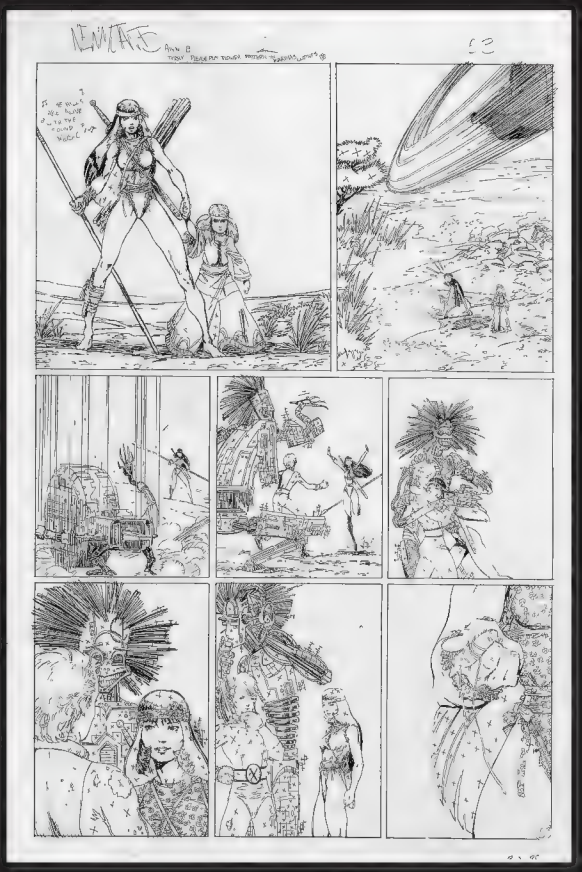
Courtesy Arthur Adams



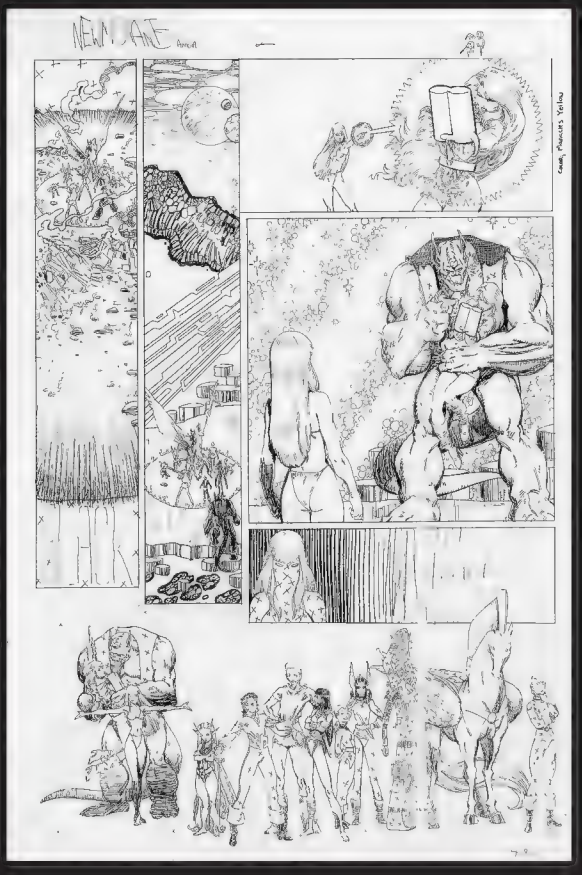
Courtesy Arthur Adams

Courtesy Arthur Adams



Courtesy Arthur Adams

Courtesy Arthur Adams



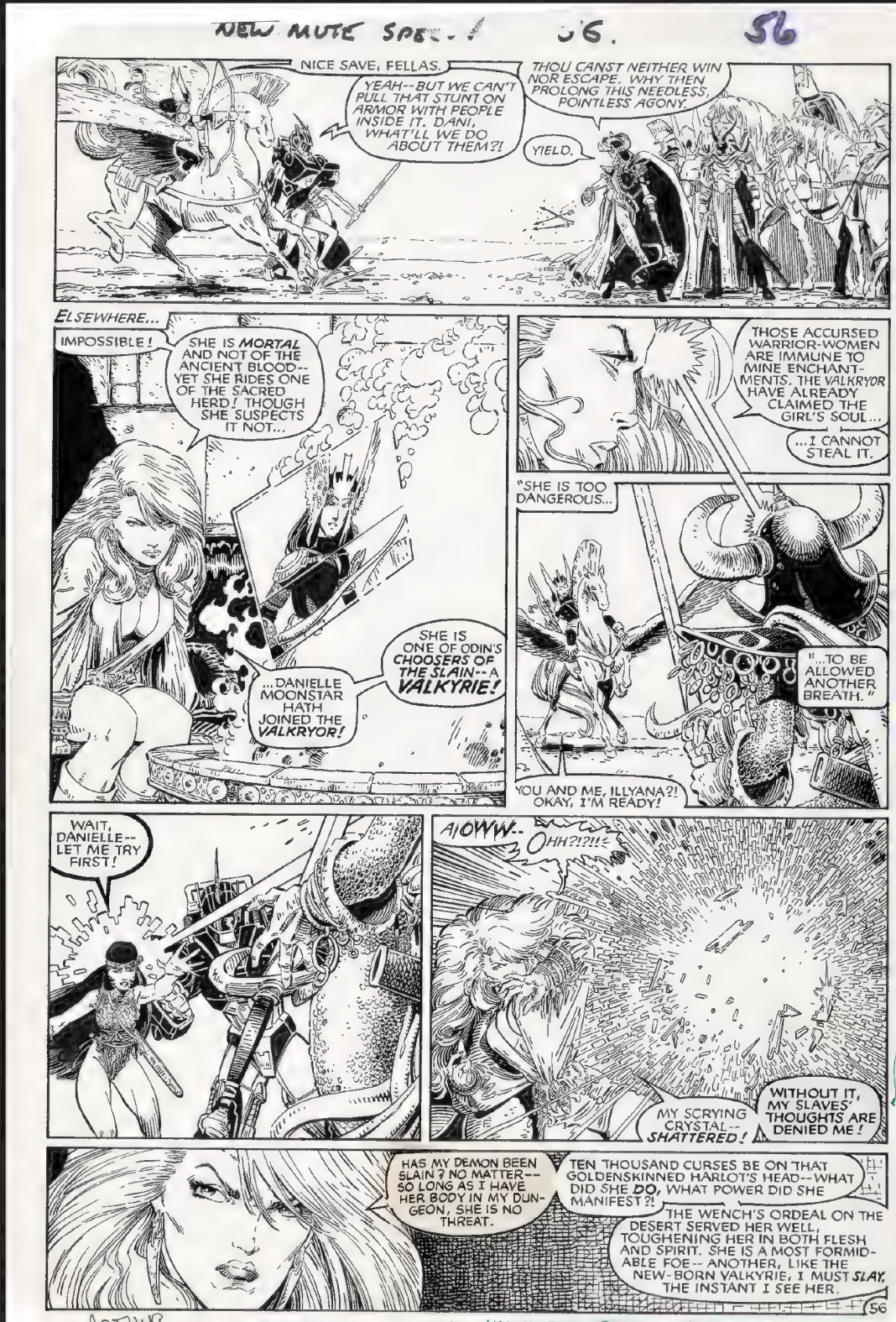
Courtesy Arthur Adams

New Mutants Special Edition #1, page 47 original art
by Arthur Adams & Terry Austin

MUTE
NEW SPEC. 1
47.
THEY DELIBERATELY IGNORED ME.
THEY'VE BEEN SO KIND AND GENEROUS-- THE BEST FRIENDS A BODY COULD WISH FOR--
--WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN ARE THEY HIDING THINGS FROM ME?
I COULD BE IMAGINING THINGS, THIS MAY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME. AFTER ALL, I DON'T REALLY BELONG HERE. I'M JUST A GUEST. SOONER OR LATER, I'LL HAVE TO GO HOME.
IT'LL BREAK MY HEART TO LEAVE BRIGHT-WIND...
...AS MUCH AS IT WOULD TO NEVER AGAIN SEE MY FOLKS.
SHE IS AN OUTLANDER!
ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT ME?!
SOUNDS PRETTY INTENSE.
SHE SHOULD NOT EVEN BE IN OUR KEEP, MIST, MUCH LESS RIDE ONE OF THE SACRED HORSES!
THOU KNOWEST AS WELL AS I, AXE, THAT OUR WINGED BRETHREN CHOOSE THEIR OWN CHAMPIONS. IT MATTERS NOT FROM WHERE OR WHENCE THE CHILD CAME, SHE HATH BEEN TRULY CHOSEN! SHE MUST BE TOLD!
SUPPOSE, MIST, SHE DOTH NOT COMPREHEND THE HONOR DONE HER? SUPPOSE SHE DENIES IT?!
'TIS TOO LATE FOR THAT. THE NORNS-- THOSE ANCIENT FATES-- HAVE ENTWINED DANIELLE'S LIFE-STRAND WITH OURS. IT REMAINS ONLY FOR THE BOND TO BE SEALED...
...IN BLOOD!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE IN MIND--
--BUT *NO WAY* WILL I BE A PART OF IT!
47
ARTHUR ADAMS 31487

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

New Mutants Special Edition #1, page 56 original art
by Arthur Adams & Terry Austin


NEW MUTE SPEC. # 56.
56
NICE SAVE, FELLAS.
YEAH--BUT WE CAN'T PULL THAT STUNT ON ARMOR WITH PEOPLE INSIDE IT. DANI, WHAT'LL WE DO ABOUT THEM?!
THOU CANST NEITHER WIN NOR ESCAPE. WHY THEN PROLONG THIS NEEDLESS, POINTLESS AGONY.
YIELD.
ELSEWHERE...
IMPOSSIBLE!
SHE IS MORTAL AND NOT OF THE ANCIENT BLOOD--YET SHE RIDES ONE OF THE SACRED HERD! THOUGH SHE SUSPECTS IT NOT...
...DANIELLE MOONSTAR HATH JOINED THE VALKRYOR!
SHE IS ONE OF ODIN'S CHOOSERS OF THE SLAIN--A VALKYRIE!
THOSE ACCURSED WARRIOR-WOMEN ARE IMMUNE TO MINE ENCHANTMENTS. THE VALKRYOR HAVE ALREADY CLAIMED THE GIRL'S SOUL...
...I CANNOT STEAL IT.
"SHE IS TOO DANGEROUS...
"...TO BE ALLOWED ANOTHER BREATH."
YOU AND ME, ILLYANA?! OKAY, I'M READY!
WAIT, DANIELLE--LET ME TRY FIRST!
AIOWW..
OHH?!?!!!
MY SCRYING CRYSTAL--SHATTERED!
WITHOUT IT, MY SLAVES' THOUGHTS ARE DENIED ME!
MOVE BALLOON @ INDICATED.
HAS MY DEMON BEEN SLAIN? NO MATTER--SO LONG AS I HAVE HER BODY IN MY DUNGEON, SHE IS NO THREAT.
TEN THOUSAND CURSES BE ON THAT GOLDENSKINNED HARLOT'S HEAD--WHAT DID SHE DO, WHAT POWER DID SHE MANIFEST?!
THE WENCH'S ORDEAL ON THE DESERT SERVED HER WELL, TOUGHENING HER IN BOTH FLESH AND SPIRIT. SHE IS A MOST FORMIDABLE FOE--ANOTHER, LIKE THE NEW-BORN VALKYRIE, I MUST SLAY, THE INSTANT I SEE HER.
56
ARTHUR ADAMS 31487
BUT WITHOUT THE CRYSTAL
A NEW COPY!
HAS MY DEMON BEEN SLAIN? NO MATTER- SO LONG AS I HAVE HER BODY IN MY DUNGEON, SHE IS NO THREAT.

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

Enchantress character design sketches
by Arthur Adams

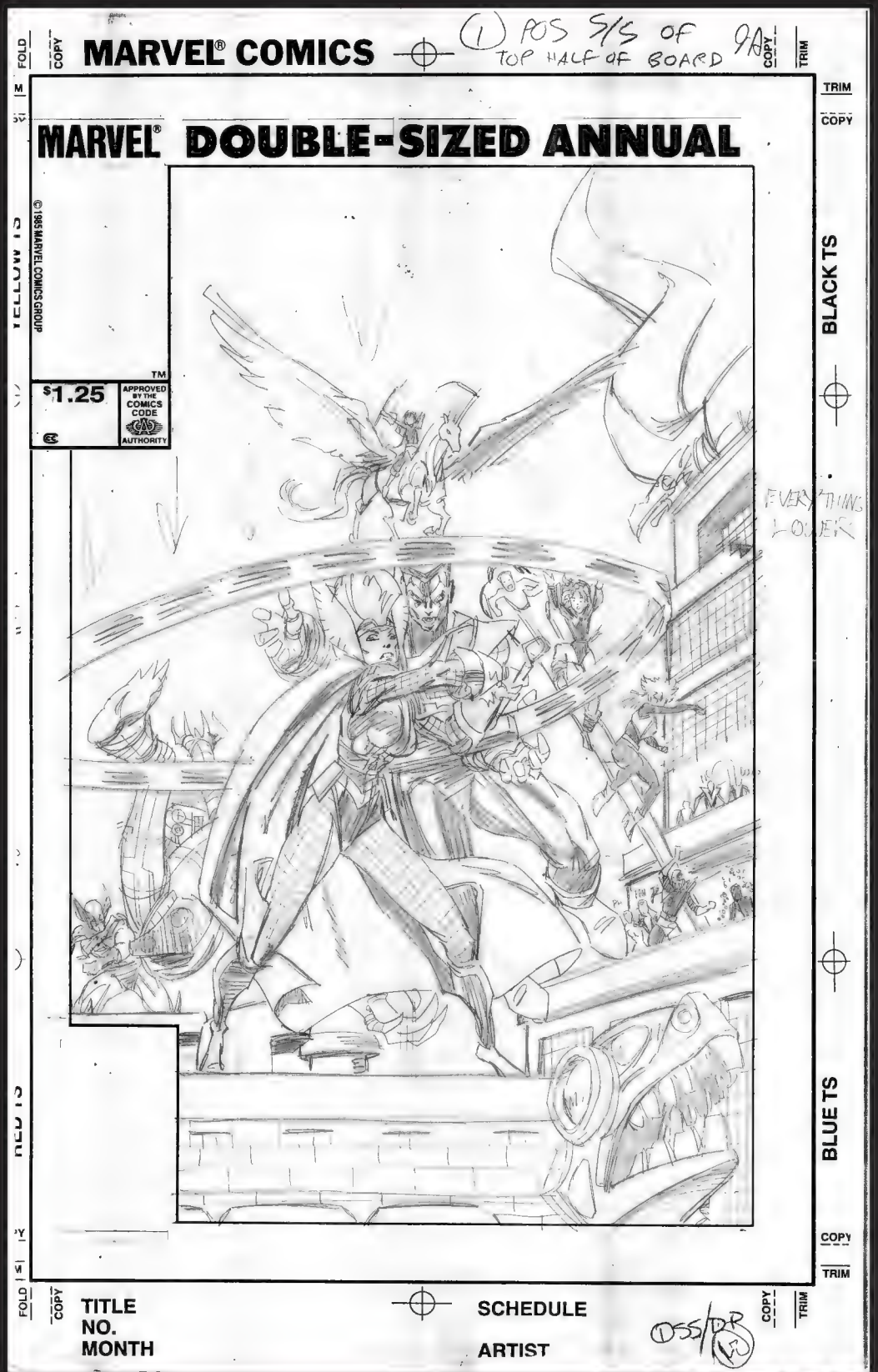
Courtesy Arthur Adams

Courtesy Arthur Adams

Shadowcat character design sketches
by Arthur Adams

Courtesy Arthur Adams

The X-Men Annual #9, cover sketch
by Arthur Adams



Courtesy Arthur Adams

The X-Men Annual #9, page 30 original art
by Arthur Adams

X-'ANN 9 30. 30
SEIZE THE OUTLANDERS--
--ESPECIALLY THE FAERY-LASS!
CRUMBS!
BACK OFF, KIDS--
--THIS IS MY KIND'A FRACAS!
THE PRIZE IS OURS, BROTHERS!
THEIR MACHINE-- IT IS COLD IRON!
AMARA--!
HANG ON, GIRL, I'LL-- WHOA, POOCH!
TRY A TASTE O' THESE CLAWS--
--CRIPES! THE SCENT, IT CAN'T BE!
AHHRR!
DRAGON'S TEETH-- POISONED!
BURNIN' UP-- BLOOD'S BECOME... BOILIN' ACID-- DON'T THINK... MY MUTANT HEALING FACTOR... CAN COPE...!
BLESS YOU, EITRI--
--MY MAIL SHIRT SAVED ME! BUT IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD IF THIS CRITTER GOES FOR MY THROAT AN' HEAD!
30
ARTHUR ADAMS 7487
REDUCE 10 → 5 7/8. CHEMICAL STRIP-IN.

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

The X-Men Annual #9, page 31 original art
by Arthur Adams

X'-ANN 9 31.
MY MAGIC SWORD WON'T KILL THE WOLF-- IT CAN'T CUT ANYTHING THAT'S ALIVE--
-- BUT MAYBE A GOOD WHACK'LL DRIVE THIS FURBALL AWAY!
CLANG!
HOLY COW!?! RAHNE!
THE OTHER WOLF--HE'S ENSORCELLED, TOO!
I BEG YOU, SAM-- SAVE MY PRINCE AS YOU DID ME, BEFORE HE SHEDS ANY INNOCENT BLOOD OR IS SLAIN HIMSELF!
JUST THEN, OUT OF THE STAR-SPECKLED EBONY OF THE EVENING SKY...
HERE WE COME, TO SAVE THE DAY--!
ZASP!
26
31

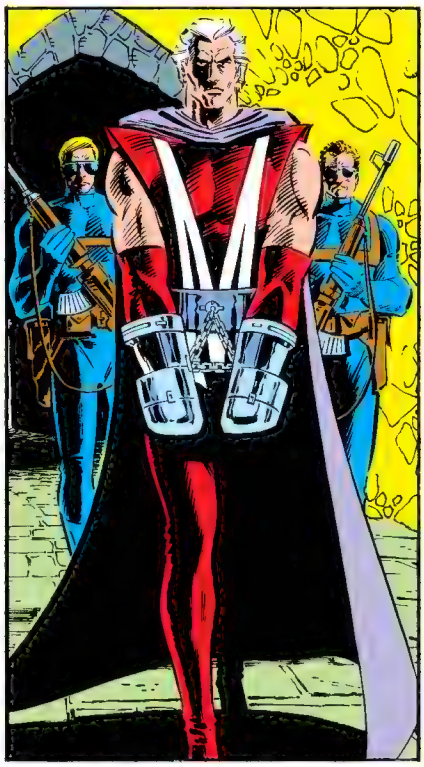
Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

Marvel Age #32, "The Mutant Report" feature on *The Uncanny X-Men* #200
by Peter Sanderson

200 ISSUES OF MUTANTS!

THE UNCANNY X-MEN®

THE X-MEN is about to attain another milestone. Already this year, with issue #193, the series has reached its hundredth issue featuring the "new" X-Men team that was introduced ten years ago. That issue also marked Chris Claremont's hundredth consecutive issue as writer of the series. Now THE X-MEN is going to mark its two hundredth issue this summer with a special 48-page story by the regular creative team of Chris Claremont, John Romita, Jr., and Dan Green that promises to be full of surprises. In fact, the events in X-MEN #200 will radically change the lives of both the X-Men and the New Mutants for the foreseeable future.



The central event in X-MEN #200 is the trial of Magneto, who has been the X-Men's greatest enemy since he was introduced in X-MEN #1 twenty-two years ago. For years Magneto battled the X-Men — who, like himself, are super-powered mutants — in his attempt to conquer the human race. But beginning in X-MEN #150, Magneto began to reconsider his goals and his methods for attaining them. He still wanted to protect his fellow mutants from persecution by humans, but began to think that he could not solve the problem through force. Readers of THE X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS, and SECRET WARS have watched as Magneto slowly changed his attitude and point of view. Recently Magneto has even acted as the X-Men's ally, as in their search for the Beyonder in the first issue of SECRET WARS II.

At the end of X-MEN #199, Magneto is captured by Freedom Force, better known to X-MEN readers as Mystique and her Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, who are now working for National Security Council official Valerie Cooper and the federal government. So, writer Chris Claremont says, "in issue 200 Magneto goes before a special tribunal of the World Court akin to the Nuremberg tribunals that were put in place after World War II" in order to stand trial for his crimes against humanity. "The judges consist of representatives of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council: one from the United States, one from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, one from the People's Republic of China, one from France, and one from Great Britain." Since the trial is set in Paris, "the presiding judge is French and probably the only woman on the tribunal. The prosecuting counsel is the attorney general of Great Britain, Sir James Jasper, which is a name which may be familiar to those who have been following the *Captain Britain* stories," which Marvel U.K. has published in Britain. "The defending counsel is Gabrielle Haller, whom everyone should remember from recent issues of THE NEW MUTANTS and who knew Magneto and Charles Xavier," the leader of the X-Men, "a long, long time ago." Gaby is the mother of Xavier's son Legion, who was recently introduced in THE NEW MUTANTS. Also, back in X-MEN #161, readers learned that Xavier first met Gaby and Magneto many years ago in Israel, and that Xavier and Magneto teamed up back then to rescue her from Baron Wolfgang von Strucker, the man most responsible for organizing the evil organization known as Hydra.

"Magneto is accused of a multitude of crimes against humanity," Chris says. "Jaspers is going to try to nail him on them and Gaby is going to do her best to get him off. Of course, assisting her in the defense is Charles Xavier. There's no sense of a breach of legal ethics with Xavier sitting there reading the minds of the opposition because at this point he doesn't have his psionic powers." This is because Xavier was severely injured in X-MEN #192, and has been using drugs recently to dull his mind-reading powers to avoid further strain. Xavier still has not recovered from those injuries.

"There are various political considerations that weave

throughout the book," Chris continues, involving "conflicts between the Soviets," represented by Colonel Vashin of the K.G.B., the Russian intelligence agency, "and the Americans," represented by Val Cooper and Colonel Rossi from X-MEN #182. Magneto plans to use his trial as a means of stating his views about humanity's mistreatment of mutants. "That's why the Russians are so upset," Chris explains. "The Russian attitude as expressed by Colonel Vashin is either kill Magneto or leave him alone, but the one thing you don't do with a political dissident is put him on trial, because if you acquit him, that means you approve of what he's doing, and of what his goals are. If you convict him, any punishment you give him makes him a martyr. In the meantime Magneto has a forum wherein he can expound on his views, on who mutants are, and why he does the things he does."

The villains of the story are Andrea and Andreas, the twins who clashed with Storm in Africa in recent X-MEN issues. "What will be revealed in this issue," Chris states, "is that their names are Andrea and Andreas Strucker, and their father is indeed the infamous late, unlamented Baron Strucker. Their feeling is that since Magneto was responsible for their dad's first big postwar defeat and humiliation, they ought to avenge the family honor." The Struckers plan to frame Magneto for crimes and then kill him. "So what they are doing through the book is blowing up NATO installations, massacring scads of NATO and Warsaw Pact troops, and leaving painted messages saying 'Free Magneto!' and signed 'The X-Men.'" The Struckers' idea is that everyone will believe that Magneto approves of all of this destruction that the X-Men are supposedly committing on his behalf. "This will culminate in an attack on the Palais d'Justice in Paris, where they figure they will either kill him while 'attempting to rescue him,' or they will just leave him for the authorities to kill, because they figure by the time they're done, his reputation will be irredeemable." The Struckers have a great deal of power at their command. Not only do they have a cadre of mercenaries, but they also have super-powers, which, however, only function when the twins are in physical contact with each other. One twin can fire a force beam and the other can shoot a disintegrator ray.

But what are the X-Men themselves doing all this time? "They do quite a lot,' Chris replies, "but I won't say what. You'll just have to read the issue."

However, one of the adventures that the X-Men have in the course of issue 200 will not be seen in 200 at all! The X-Men and the New Mutants arrive in Paris towards the beginning of the issue, having just finished their exploits in Asgard in this year's X-MEN ANNUAL. (The 1985 X-MEN ANNUAL, by the way, is a sequel to the NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL, which itself follows up on events in both the special two-issue X-MEN / ALPHA FLIGHT series, on sale this summer, and the storyline in THE NEW MUTANTS #32–34.) "The X-Men show up around page 5 of issue 200," Chris explains, "and Cyclops joins Xavier," who is already in Paris, "a few pages later with the line, 'Professor, we've had an adventure you will not believe, and Paris is not likely to forget anytime soon.' What adventure is that, True Believers? Well, you'll just have to stay tuned for future announcements from Marvel." Chris is hoping to do a special one-shot series or even a limited series about what happened to the X-Men in Paris in the space of those few pages.

He had a good opportunity to get ideas for that story because Chris, X-MEN editor Ann Nocenti, and regular X-MEN artists John Romita Jr. and Dan Green travelled to Paris in May to do research for issue #200. On this trip they also made personal appearances, held press conferences, and even appeared on television in France and England. Chris also appeared at the Barcelona Book Fair in Spain.

Commenting on the changes in Magneto over the last few years, Chris says, "You're watching the evolution of a man from a fanatic to a statesman. It's a healing process. You had a man who was deeply scarred, psychologically wounded," by the persecution he had suffered, including his experiences at the Nazi death camp of Auschwitz, "who recovered to the

Some previously unpublished ***X-Men*** *sketches by* ***Art Adams.***

point where all he wanted was vengeance against those he felt had hurt him. Had he not been returned to childhood by Alpha the Ultimate Mutant in DEFENDERS #16, he would have gone on to become a psychotic madman." But in being turned back into a baby and then restored to adulthood once more by X-MEN #104, Magneto "was given a second chance. What you're seeing is his evolution because of that second chance into a more human, rounded, sane individual. His sense of ethics, his morality, is catching up with his sense of purpose. His belief had always been that the ends justify the means. Now he's coming to realize what Xavier has meant all along: the means are the ends, that they are intertwined, and that corrupt means will eventually corrupt the end. He's also come to realize that all of his attempts at bringing about positive change for his people" — mutants — "by force have not worked. There's an old saying, I think by Clemenceau, to the effect that if a man at the age of 20 is not a revolutionary, he has no heart, but if a man at the age of 40 is still a revolutionary, he has no head. Magneto has come to realize that there are more of 'them' than there are of 'us,' more normal people than mutants. And what kind of world would be left after the sort of holocaust" that Magneto would bring about in order to conquer the world? So it is, Chris observes, that Magneto is beginning to think that "perhaps Xavier is right" about mutants having to co-exist peacefully with humanity.

"Issue #200," Chris asserts, "is the culmination of a lot of the things we've been building up to in the last few years. There's a lot of stuff happening in it. There's triumph; there's tragedy; there are surprise guest appearances." Moreover, something happens by the end of the story that will greatly affect storylines in both THE X-MEN and THE NEW MUTANTS for a long time to come. "I would consider it in certain respects as seminal an event as that in #137," the issue featuring the death of Phoenix, Chris states. It will be an event that will serve as a catalyst for various character developments in the members of both teams.

Having reached the two hundredth issue of the entire X-MEN series, and having scripted over a hundred issues featuring the new X-Men himself, what does Chris Claremont think is the reason behind the new X-Men's continuing success? "I could say it's because it's a book that has invariably pulled the best work its creators are capable out of them. I would say that the new X-Men are a superb set of characters that, at the time they were introduced, struck a resonant chord in the readership. It was the right book at the right place at the right time. And we have managed to continue to be the right book at the right place at the right time. It's always managed to be true to its center, to its reason for being. Consequently, I think it's a book that the readers can identify with. These are characters that the readers can identify with.

"The story in X-MEN #200," Chris goes on, "hopefully like them all, grows out of an evolution of character, and if the series is still fresh and vital, it's because the characters are still to a large extent fresh and vital. There are enough characters in both THE X-MEN and THE NEW MUTANTS who are sufficiently unexplored that at this point there's no real end to where we could go with it in terms of their conflict and growth. We still have a phenomenal number of options left, and so long as the characters have potential, then the book has potential, because you can structure a storyline far more easily out of character interrelationships and character dynamics than you can out of plot dynamics. The interrelationships provide springboards for stories."

Moreover, Chris points to the importance of the basic conflict at the heart of THE X-MEN as giving it its strong appeal. It is the "conflicts, maybe not in the sense of mutants versus humanity, but in the sense of being an outsider, of being a rebel, of being oppressed. It's something that kids can identify with, and that adults can identify with."

And how does Chris himself feel about doing the book after ten years as its writer? "I'm just having fun. I like the characters. I find that I still have stories to tell. I hope that when I cease to have stories to tell that I'll recognize that and have courage enough to quit. Basically, it's still more fun than not, and consequently, I'll stay."

X-MEN #200 launches the next set of stories Chris Claremont has to tell in both THE X-MEN and in THE NEW MUTANTS. If you want to be in at the start of the next phase in the X-Men's history, you will not want to miss X-MEN #200.

— Peter Sanderson

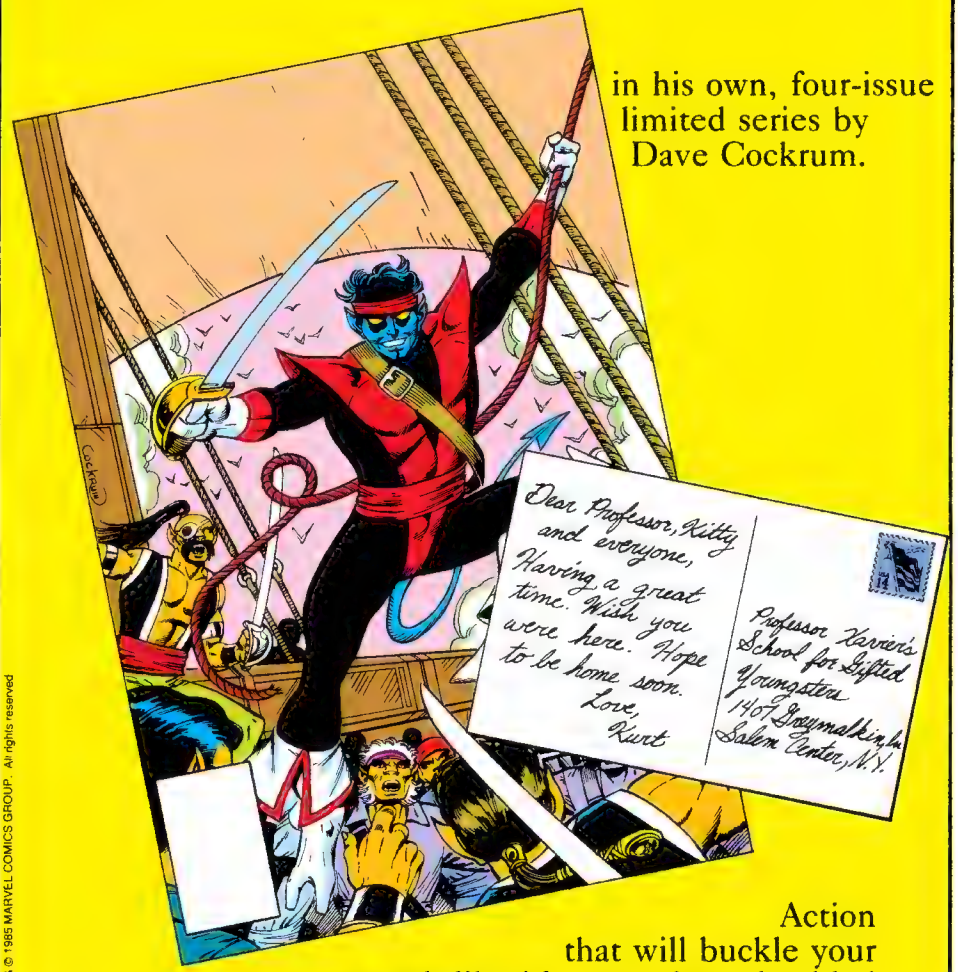
It's Genetic

"HUMOR IN A MUTATED VEIN"

by Jim Salicrup & Kyle Baker

Nightcrawler #1 house ad
from November 1985 titles

From the pages of the X-MEN
The fuzzy elf, himself. . .


Dear Professor, Kitty and everyone,
Having a great time. Wish you were here. Hope to be home soon.
Love,
Kurt
Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters
1407 Graymalkin Ln.
Salem Center, N.Y.

in his own, four-issue limited series by Dave Cockrum.

Action that will buckle your swash like it's never been buckled before! First issue on sale in July! Only 75¢.

NIGHTCRAWLER™ MARVEL®

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Marvel Age #31 (October 1985) cover
by Dave Cockrum

Marvel Age #31 "The Mutant Report" feature on *Nightcrawler*
by Dwight Jon Zimmerman

EXTRA THE MUTANT REPORT EXTRA

VOL. I "The Next Step in News Evolution!" NO. 2

And Now For Something Completely Different . . .

Get ready for a good time! **Dave Cockrum** is about to show you a side of **Nightcrawler** that you almost never see — the riproaring, fun-loving side of everyone's favorite barb-tailed mutant, in the four-issue **NIGHTCRAWLER Limited Series**. Written, penciled and inked by **Dave** and colored by his wife, **Paty**, the Limited Series is, as editor **Ann Nocenti** described, "A real romp. In the regular **X-MEN** series, **Nightcrawler** has been going through some pretty heavy emotional trips. **Dave**, in this Limited Series, gets him away from all that and shows how fun-loving he can be."

This self-contained adventure begins during a quiet afternoon practice session in the Danger Room. "**Kurt** is going through a series of no-teleport exercises," **Dave** explained. "And **Kitty** and **Illyana** are running the Danger Room's controls. When this first set of exercises is over, **Kitty** and **Illyana** ask **Kurt** why he's going through this sort of routine. His power is not undependable."

No, but there was a time when **Nightcrawler** could not teleport. Astute readers will recall the madness and misadventure that occured in the black-and-white **BIZARRE ADVENTURES** #27 story, which was drawn by **Dave** and written by **Jo Duffy**. In it, **Nightcrawler** fell into the mysterious Well at the End of the World, emerged in a different dimension and suffered all manner of trouble before finally returning to earth. All this **Kurt** relates to **Kitty** and **Illyana**. And that's when the trouble begins.

"**Kitty** is so captivated by the idea of the Well at the End of the World," **Dave** said, "that she starts punching the information **Kurt's** told her into the Danger Room computer to see if it can create a simulacrum of the Well." No sooner does the information go in, than the Well is created. But what **Kurt**, **Illyana**, **Kitty** and **Kitty's** pet dragon, **Lockheed**, don't realize is that this Well is not a fake — it's the real thing!

"As they are examining the Well," **Dave** said, "a tentacle pops out, wraps itself around **Lockheed** and pulls him into the Well. **Kurt** jumps to the rescue, but as soon as he's inside, the Well collapses around him and vanishes."

Kitty and **Illyana** are horrified. Nobody else is at the estate. This is one fix they're going to have to get out of on their own — and fast! If **Professor X** finds out what **Kitty** and **Illyana** have done, they'll really be in trouble!

"**Kitty** and **Illyana** dash back up to the control room to try and recreate the setting that constructed the Well in the hope of bringing **Nightcrawler** and **Lockheed** back," **Dave** said. "Of course, they don't know what they're doing, and their playing with the controls only makes matters for **Nightcrawler** worse."

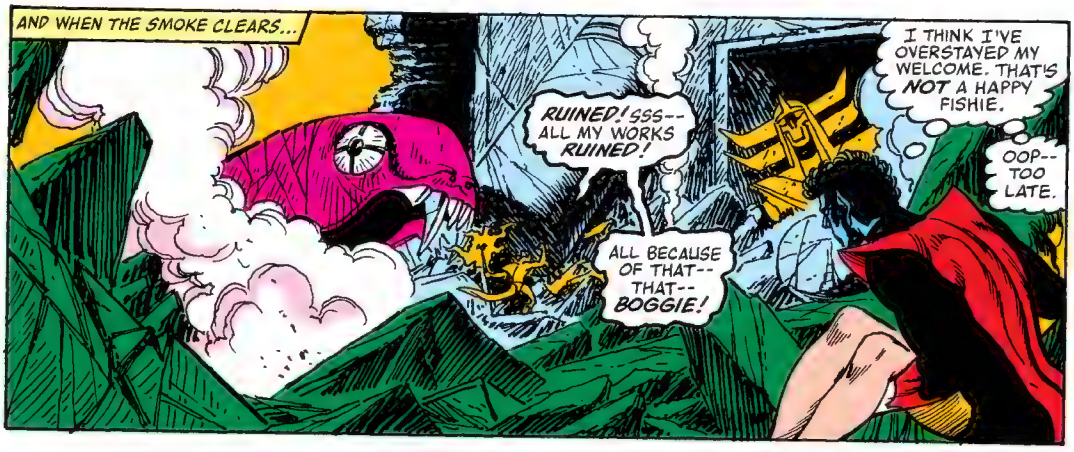
Essentially what happens is, each time **Kitty** and **Illyana** think they have the setting right, and hit the activate button, they shunt **Kurt** into a different dimension.

But where is **Kurt**, anyway? "In the first issue, **Nightcrawler** materializes in the middle of the sky in another world," **Dave** said. "He gets captured by a flying squid-like thing and is carried along in the air until he meets a flying pirate ship." **Kurt** signs on with the pirates and begins a wild adventure in the best **Errol Flynn** tradition. The only trouble is, **Nightcrawler** is having fun with the bad guys! The first inkling **Kurt** has of this is when the pirates prepare to attack another ship. What happens next?

"**Kurt** tries to convince the crew not to attack. You can imagine how far that gets him," **Dave** said. As a result, **Kurt** jumps ship and joins in the fight against the pirates, eventually helping defeat them. In the process, he rescues and befriends the princess on the beleaguered vessel. This brings up a whole new round of trouble for **Kurt**, because no one on the ship wants their princess to fall in love with a **Boggie**. And as far as they are concerned, **Kurt** is the biggest **Boggie** they've ever seen. The truth is, though, that **Nightcrawler** is not a **Boggie**. But can he convince anyone of that? Noooo! "The terrible thing for **Kurt** is that throughout that first issue, he never sees a **Boggie**, so he doesn't even know what the people are talking about," **Dave** said. "Then, in the second issue, he finally meets **the Boggies**. And as he says of the disgusting things, 'The universe must be up to its navel in little blue geeks.'"

Not only does **Nightcrawler** encounter **Boggies**, but he also meets the dangerous **Bamfs**, the weird **Wolverine**-like creature **"Mean"** and a host of other bizarre permutations of **the X-Men**. **Nightcrawler** also encounters **Shagreen**, a wizard so merciless, he makes **Doctor Doom** seem like the Good Humor Ice Cream Man. And **Shagreen** wants what **Kurt** has — the ability to teleport. **Boggies** can also teleport, and originally **Shagreen** was attempting to trick, trap and torture the secret out of the **Boggies**. That's when **Nightcrawler** falls into his hands.

"When the second issue opens," **Dave** said, "we discover that **Shagreen** has captured the princess **Kurt** rescued in the first issue. In his quest to accumulate more and more wizard power, **Shagreen** also sacrifices beautiful maidens — of which the princess is one. **Kurt** frees the princess and the two escape from **Shagreen's** stronghold." This does not set well with **Sha-**


AND WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...
RUINED! SSS-- ALL MY WORKS RUINED!
ALL BECAUSE OF THAT-- THAT-- BOGGIE!
I THINK I'VE OVERSTAYED MY WELCOME. THAT'S NOT A HAPPY FISHIE.
OOP-- TOO LATE.

green. For the rest of the Limited Series, **Shagreen** chases **Nightcrawler** through the dimensions, trying to learn the secret of teleportation from **Nightcrawler** before he kills him.

There is drama and excitement in the adventure, and also a lot of swashbuckling fun. "What makes this Limited Series special is **Dave's** humor," **Ann Nocenti** said. "People got a taste of it in his Graphic Novel, **THE FUTURIANS**. The **NIGHTCRAWLER Limited Series** is one of the few stories that I've read where I was laughing out loud as I read the scripts."

"There is also a somber, melancholy side to the Limited Series as well," **Ann** added. "**Nightcrawler** literally winds up facing his fears in the Limited Series — but he does so in a funny way."

"I don't think I could tell a story totally straight," **Dave** said. "I'm too optimistic a person. I like a story with fun in it. This is not a Limited Series with slapstick, but I play the adventures for laughs when I can. For instance, with **Kitty** and **Illyana** at the Danger Room's controls, one time they manage to return **Kurt's** costume to Earth, but leave **Nightcrawler** naked in the other dimension."

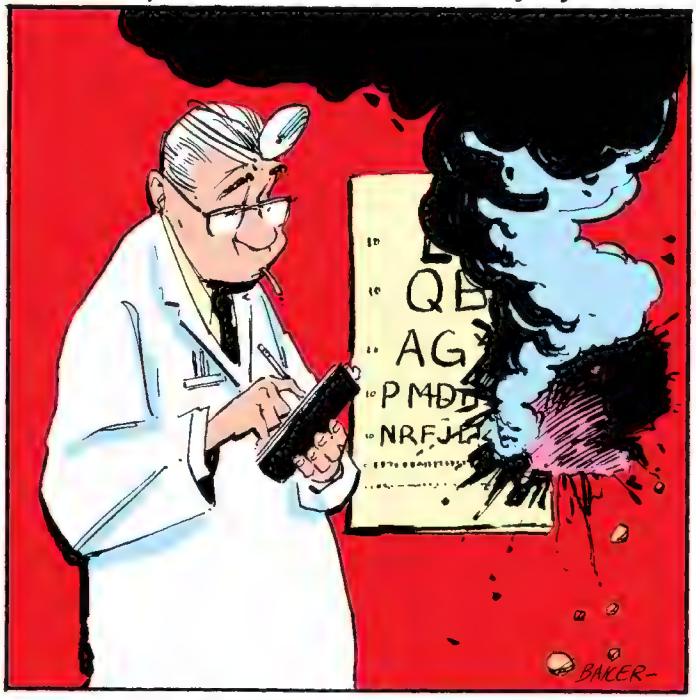
What else happens to **Kurt**? **Dave** smiled, but refused to comment, except to say that, "Time passes at different rates between the dimensions. So **Kitty** and Illyana figure that they've been at work for about a half hour, during the whole Limited Series. But **Kurt** feels that he's been away from Earth for almost three weeks."

A lot can happen during that time. And **Dave** assures us that a lot does — not all of it nice, neither. Yet everything works out well in the end. **Dave's** only complaint has been since he is doing everything except the lettering and coloring, "It takes too long to finish. But other than that, I'm really happy with the result. I think everyone will enjoy what happens to **Nightcrawler**."

— *Dwight Jon Zimmerman*

It's Genetic

by **Kyle Baker**



*"All right, **Mr. Summers**, now try the left eye."*

Nightcrawler #1, page 5 original art
by Dave Cockrum

1ST MINISERIES
#1 NIGHTCRAWLER 6
KURT! OH, NO! THAT THING'S REAL!
STAY BACK, KATZCHEN, I'LL GET LOCKHEED!
IT'S PULLING HIM DOWN INTO THE WELL!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT SOMEHOW YOU'VE MATERIALIZED THE REAL WELL AT THE CENTER OF TIME!
THROWING CAUTION TO THE WIND, THE GERMAN-BORN MUTANT LEAPS HEADLONG INTO THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL "RABBIT-HOLE"--
THIS MAY BE ONE OF THE STUPIDEST THINGS I'VE EVER DONE!
I'VE GOT TO GRAB LOCKHEED AND THEN 'PORT THE TWO OF US OUT AGAIN--
--IF I CAN GET HIM LOOSE.
ACH!
OH! WHAT'S THAT LIGHT? KITTY, GET BACK!
OH, NO-- ILLYANA! I THINK--
--THE WELL! IT'S COLLAPSING!
OH, NO!
5

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

Nightcrawler #4, page 11 original art
by Dave Cockrum & Josef Rubinstein

NIGHTCRAWLER MINISERIES
#4
15
HEY, MEAN, I CAN REACH YOU WITH MY TAIL. LET ME KNOW IF--
GIGGLE
WHAT TH--WHO GIGGLED?
AHA! NOT ONLY IS THIS THING ALIVE--
NYA-HA-HAAA!
IT'S TICKLISH!
TICKLE
GIGGLE GIGGLE
TICKLE
GIGGLE GIGGLE
TICKLE
GIGGLE GAG
TICKLE
GIGGLE GIGGLE
GASP GUF GUF
GUFFAW!
WHEEEEEZE HUH HOO HOOP HICCUP
YOU AIN'T FOOLIN', IT'S TICKLISH!
LOOKING OUT THROUGH THE HOLE BLASTED IN THE WALL, PIRATE KITTY SEES A FAMILIAR FACE...
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, Y'BIG GALOOT? AND WHAT ABOUT THAT TENTACLED THING THAT GRABBED YOU?
OH, THAT. IT WUZ DELICIOUS, THEN I WENT T'FETCH WINDRIDER. I FIGURED Y'COULD USE SOME MAGICAL HELP.
YOU FIGURED PRETTY GOOD, BUDDY BOY.
11

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

X-Men: The Asgardian Wars TPB (1989) cover
by Arthur Adams

Reprinting *X-Men/Alpha Flight* #1-2, *New Mutants Special Edition* #1 & *The X-Men Annual* #9

INTRODUCTION

BY CHRIS CLAREMONT

FROM X-MEN: THE ASGARDIAN WARS TPB (1989)

At their best—when the story and the collaborators are right—comics are exhilarating.

For those who do 'em, and hopefully those who read 'em.

I still remember when I got hooked. Of course, I'd read comics all my youth—bought books here and there, mostly read 'em in the barbershop. They had a huge stash there for kids waiting for their weekly trims. But those were take-'em-or-leave-'em sort of days; there wasn't anything that stood out from the crowd, to make the eyes zing and heart sparkle.

Until *Fantastic Four* #49. I walked into my local stationery store, flipped idly through the rack, then through the book—and I was lost. Stan Lee script, Jack Kirby pencils, Joe Sinnott inks, Galactus, the Watcher, the Silver Surfer—it was outrageous. Like holding your very own 70mm/widescreen movie in your hand.

So, I bought the next issue, and the next, and the next—and started looking for anything else by these guys. Which brought me to *Thor* and eventually to this story, which we call "The Asgardian Wars."

Thor, God of Thunder. Has a ring to it, a majesty that made his book something special even when the stories perhaps didn't quite fulfill that unique potential. He wasn't a super hero, for one, but Hero and God rolled into one. And as Stan and Jack fleshed out the Asgardian mythos—in Thor's own stories and the occasional backup *Tales of Asgard* feature—it got more and more fascinating to me as reader and, later, writer. This was larger than life in ways that the regular Earth-bound titles only rarely were. A truly cosmic stage on which anything was possible.

But fate took me in another direction, accident or coincidence or just plain dumb luck bringing me and Dave Cockrum and the X-Men together in the right place, at the right time. We had no idea when we started what lay ahead; our ambition was simply to get an issue out every 60 days (as opposed to today's every 10 seconds, or so it seems) and have as much fun as possible in the process. That last, at least, hasn't changed. The book comes out more often—and there are lots more titles derived from it—but the main idea is still to touch that eldritch, ephemeral magic that Stan and Jack conjured two decades ago and have a blast. Figuring that if we enjoy what we're doing, so will the readers.

So where'd this story come from? Marvel's notion was to see if John Byrne, artist and co-creator on some of the X-Men's greatest stories, and I could be inveigled into working together again on an X-related project, perhaps by teaming up my guys, the X-Men, with the team of Canadian heroes John had created (and which had debuted in *The X-Men*), Alpha Flight. Jim Shooter (Marvel's former editor-in-chief) and Denny O'Neil (the former *Alpha* editor) and Ann Nocenti (the former X-editor) put their sneaky, collective heads together—and if that isn't the most ultimately weird and disparately eclectic creative trio, I don't know what is—and came up with a concept that might intrigue all parties concerned and make for a cracking good story.

This is the end result. Regrettably, John had to pass on the project, but I, being a glutton for punishment, I decided to plow on regardless. The rough outline was hammered, shaped, shoved

kicking and screaming into a coherent plot. Our quest for a penciler came up with Paul Smith, who'd done a memorable year's stint on the X-Men. And out of the usual zany, hysterically histrionic chaos, we brought forth the 96-page *X-Men/Alpha Flight*.

Fine and dandy.

One problem, though.

The story wasn't quite finished.

Y'see, we'd ended *X-Alpha* with Loki (the Asgardian God of Mischief and Evil) vowing vengeance on our hapless heroes. Too dandy a loose end to be left hanging for long (regardless of my reputation in that regard). So I had the brilliant idea of rolling the story right on into that summer's Annuals—*New Mutants* and *X-Men*. And Ann, in her infinite wisdom, swallowed doubts and common sense (she never thought we'd do it) and gave the go-ahead. We already knew the poor souls who would handle the less publicly heralded but, in their own ways, equally critical responsibilities of lettering and coloring, Tom Orzechowski and Glynis Oliver, respectively (with some help in the latter department from Petra Scotese), who together have been part of the X-Men canon virtually from the beginning and who've contributed incalculably to the essential look and feel of the book. And for inking, who better to follow Bob Wiacek's superlative work on *X-Alpha* than the equally superlative Terry Austin.

However, that still left us short a penciler, someone loony enough to commit himself to two Annuals, with the usual killer deadlines, and about a bazillion characters, not to mention settings as wildly diverse as the Greek Isles, Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters, Asgard itself, plus a half dozen or more lesser sites scattered about the Golden Realm. Who was good. Who was available.

I contemplated learning to draw.

Ann, bless her, called one of her favorite artists.

Arthur Adams.

So we were off and running, a really nifty pair of stories being penciled by two of the best in the business today. X-Men, Alpha Flight, Loki, old gods, new gods, ancient spells, more ancient curses, possession, dispossession, repossession, hearts lost, powers won, love, death, politics, dishonor, trolls, dark elves, sorcery, angst, apotheosis, tragedy and triumph. Who cares that the *Muties Annual* grew like Topsy to a mind-boggling 64 pages (which is why it's a *Special Edition* instead of an *Annual*, go figure!). What the heck, if all of us were tearing our hair out and having shrieking fits at various stages of production, threatening to quit as often as we faced being fired, we didn't care—we were working on an *epic*!

But, more often than not, we were also having a heckuva lot of fun.

Which brings me back, sort of, to where I started. Fun. Comics have changed a lot the past few years—creative opportunities and horizons have broadened to points that were inconceivable only a few short years ago. The industry has taken its first faltering steps towards becoming a true publishing medium, as varied as its prose counterpart. But the best of the breed—especially as regards the mainstream super hero genre—springs from a fundamental joy on the part of the creators. There's a special, almost magical excitement that comes from the translation of ideas into words and pictures—as there is for the writer crafting his prose or the artist his images—and from the synthesis of sympatico creative minds, writer and artist (and editor) collaborating, combining their individual visions to craft a whole that's greater than the sum of its parts. And when that happens, when the pieces really *click*, there's nothing I've found quite like it.

Whatever you think of this story, it's to my mind that process working at its chaotically creative best. It isn't perfect, but then perfection was never the goal. And shouldn't be. Perfection is static, the ultimate end. Once achieved, where do you go from there? A better goal is to aim as high as it's possible to go, and next time try a little higher.

And, have fun along the way.

We've done our part. Now it's your turn.

And if you do enjoy it, tell your friends, the more the merrier. Come back for more.

We'll be waiting.

With a gleam in our eyes and some truly wicked tricks up our sleeves.

'Cause next time, it'll be even better!

New York City
September, 1988

LEFT: Storm art from the back cover of *X-Men: The Asgardian Wars* TPB (1989)

X-Men: The Asgardian Wars TPB house ad
from May 1989 titles

THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
Alpha Flight
THE NEW MUTANTS
THEY WON'T BECOME IMMORTAL — EVEN IF IT KILLS THEM!
THE ASGARDIAN WARS
By CHRIS CLAREMONT, PAUL SMITH and ART ADAMS
A 224 Page Trade Paperback On Sale in December FROM MARVEL
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BIOGRAPHIES

CHRIS CLAREMONT

It is hard to remember a time when the word "mutant" didn't correspond with the largest and most ardently followed franchise in comics, but in the mid-'70s the X-Men were naught but a forgotten team of misfits. Chris Claremont and his collaborators took this moribund property and issue by issue transformed it into a phenomenon now known the world over.

Claremont began his career in comics in the early '70s pitching in on issues of *Avengers*, *Daredevil* and *Incredible Hulk*, while also delivering several text stories to Marvel's black-and-white magazines. His first regular writing gig was *War Is Hell*, a "weird war" title that came to a close just as his run on *X-Men* and *Iron Fist* began. *Iron Fist*, which rolled out of the pages of *Marvel Premiere*, was done in concert with artist John Byrne, forming a key partnership that would pay big dividends later. Other high-profile projects from Claremont's first full decade in comics included *Marvel Preview*'s Starlord, *Ms. Marvel*, *Marvel Team-Up* (again with Byrne) and *John Carter: Warlord of Mars*.

But it was in the pages of *X-Men* where Claremont would change comics history. In tandem with artists Dave Cockrum and John Byrne, Claremont helped build a cornerstone franchise for Marvel. After writer Len Wein launched the newly updated series in 1975 with *Giant-Size X-Men* #1, Claremont was tasked with guiding the new adventures of the mutant misfits, and he did so by crafting layered stories that balanced crisp dialogue with high-octane action. Claremont placed a premium on characterization, a lofty goal in a team book with many players, but he did so deftly enough to spin a wide-ranging tapestry of characters, each of whom became fan favorites.

Leading breathless fans down the path of classics including "The Dark Phoenix Saga," "Days of Future Past," and *God Loves, Man Kills*, he helped build such an intense loyalty that it only made sense to spin-off the X-Men's success into new books. The first such spin-off was *The New Mutants*. Later in the decade, Claremont launched *Excalibur* with Alan Davis and established a regular series for Wolverine with John Buscema.

In 1990, he launched a new sister title for the main team of mutants with Jim Lee; *X-Men* #1 premiered to numbers that made it the highest-selling comic ever. After a long break from the company, Claremont returned to Marvel in 2000, and over the next ten years wrote the novelization of Bryan Singer's X-Men film, took on the Fantastic Four, and charted the adventures of Marvel's mutants across a variety of titles. He was inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame with its 2015 class.

ARTHUR ADAMS

Arthur Adams has been drawing for as long as he can remember. Born into an Air Force family in 1963, Adams moved around the country with his family until his father was stationed in Vacaville, CA, where they were able to put down roots. Arthur's mother would bring home stacks of comic books from her monthly trips to the thrift store, giving him an early education in the art form. But his main interest as a kid was in drawing dinosaurs and classic monster-movie characters.

It wasn't until he bought the first issue of *Micronauts* in 1979, drawn by Michael Golden, that he realized it was comics that he wanted to pursue. He picked up other influences such as Bernie Wrightson, Bill Sienkiewicz and Walter Simonson. At the age of 19, he wrote a piece of fan mail to *Captain Carrot and His Amazing Zoo Crew!* and included a pinup of a character named Fara Foxette in an homage to the famous '70s poster of Farrah Fawcett. *Zoo Crew* creator Roy Thomas loved it so much he paid Adams $10 to publish it, and Adams was off and running in a career in comic book art.

After samples of his work made their way through Marvel Editorial, the promising talent was assigned to an unassuming miniseries in development writer/editor by Ann Nocenti. That series, *Longshot*, would make a star out of Adams. His detailed and dynamic pencils carried a joyful energy that made him an instant fan-favorite and also introduced many American readers to manga-influenced artwork. Both Adams and the character he co-created were soon brought into the X-Men's orbit. Chris Claremont teamed with Adams on special issues such as *New Mutants Special Edition* #1 and numerous *X-Men Annuals*. Adams would also draw issues of *X-Factor*, the *Excalibur: Mojo Mayhem* graphic novel and the three-part "New Fantastic Four."

At DC, Adams drew *Action Comics Annual* #1 starring both Superman and Batman, raising his profile to a wider audience. The whimsical Adams was perfectly suited for a pair of Gumby specials for Comico, which earned him and collaborator Bob Burden an Eisner Award for Best Single Issue. At Dark Horse, he channeled his love of monsters into an adaptation of the '50s film classic *The Creature from the Black Lagoon* and *Godzilla Color Special*, which Adams also scripted. He also launched his series *Monkeyman and O'Brien* through Dark Horse's creator-owned imprint Legend. At Wildstorm, Adams drew *Gen13* and *The Authority* and co-created the Jonni Future serial in *Tom Strong's Terrific Tales*. His recent work has included collaborations with writer Jeph Loeb on *Hulk* and *Ultimate Comics: X* and scores of cover art.

DAVE COCKRUM

The late Dave Cockrum's legacy as an artist with a vibrant and creative handle on character design is best shown in his indelible influence on the casts of *Legion of Super-Heroes* and *The X-Men*. Born an Air Force brat in Pendleton, Oregon, Dave Cockrum moved from town to town in the early years of his life. Comics were an abiding preoccupation for the itinerant lad, proven by his earliest published work: a fan letter to Stan Lee printed in *Fantastic Four* #36.

His first *real* job in comics was for Warren Publishing, where he proved adept enough to be hired as a background inker for the legendary Murphy Anderson. This position was key for him, as he not only learned the ropes of comic art with one of its hardest workers, but was put in a position to lobby for a job on Legion of Super-Heroes, a strip that backed up the monthly *Superboy*. Cockrum on the Legion was a defining time for both the book and its artist: It allowed Cockrum to blossom behind the boards of a super-hero adventure strip with a large and varied cast, and his style helped reinvigorate the teenage super heroes.

After his departure from DC Comics, his standing on Legion was put to good use on *Giant-Size X-Men* #1. By keying the revival of the X-Men to the debut of several new, international mutants, Cockrum and writers Len Wein and Chris Claremont developed a tense and unpredictable team whose popularity would slowly build to fever pitch. Cockrum's inventive designs included the stunningly beautiful Kenyan, Storm; the Russian dynamo, Colossus; the powerful Apache, Thunderbird; and the swashbuckling German, Nightcrawler. Together with the rebirth of Jean Grey as the Phoenix, Cockrum's designs had a flash that made sure the X-Men's new direction would be an eye-grabber.

After handing the book over to John Byrne with issue #108, Cockrum worked on his own concepts with *The Futurians*, first published as a Marvel Graphic Novel and then as a regular series for Lodestone. A return to *The Uncanny X-Men* in the early '80s reunited Cockrum and Claremont, and after that, Cockrum lent his imagination to projects for indie companies including Valiant and Claypool. Cockrum passed away in 2006 from complications due to diabetes.

JOHN ROMITA JR.

Like his legendary father, John Romita Jr. has become a comic-art master, establishing a powerful style uniquely his own. His life in comics began early, when as an adolescent he helped his father design the Spider-Man villain the Prowler. His first published work—cover art for Marvel UK and "Chaos at the Coffee Bean!" in *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #11—showed that he'd learned much from his father's figure drawing and storytelling sense. His first full-length project was a KISS feature in *Marvel Super-Special* #5. In the summer of 1978, he began a years long parternship on *Iron Man* with David Michelinie and Bob Layton. It was during his first *Iron Man* break that Romita Jr. took on full-time art duties on *Amazing Spider-Man* for the first of multiple acclaimed runs. During his Spidey tenure he also helped launch *Dazzler* and penciled the first Marvel miniseries, *Marvel Super Hero Contest of Champions*. In 1983, Romita Jr. joined Chris Claremont's *Uncanny X-Men*, taking over the industry's most popular comic for a three-year run that saw his art dramatically evolve in tone. After a stint on the New Universe series *Starbrand*, he rebounded with a pair of *Amazing Spider-Man* issues that included Peter Parker's proposal to Mary Jane Watson. Next, Romita Jr. began a run on *Daredevil* with writer Ann Nocenti, introducing Typhoid Mary and establishing himself as one of the definitive *Daredevil* artists. After a third run on *Iron Man*, his credits included *Punisher War Zone*, *Daredevil: The Man Without Fear* with Frank Miller, a return to *Uncanny X-Men*, and long runs on *Spider-Man*, *Thor* and *Peter Parker: Spider-Man*. As the new century dawned, the ever more popular Romita Jr. kept adding to his superstar resume with stints on *Amazing Spider-Man* with J. Michael Straczynski, *Wolverine* with Mark Millar, *Eternals* with Neil Gaiman, and the *World War Hulk* event. His collaboration with Millar spawned their creator-owned series *Kick-Ass*, which led to a blockbuster feature film. In recent years, he has returned once more to *Amazing Spider-Man*, helped relaunch *Avengers* with Brian Michael Bendis and *Captain America* with Rick Remender, and beginning in 2014, Romita moved to DC where his runs on *Superman* and *All-Star Batman* have topped sales charts.

JO DUFFY

Like a lot of fans who would later turn pro, Jo Duffy first gained notice at Marvel by writing countless letters to her favorite comics. Her ardent fandom was memorialized in a 1977 issue of *Iron Man*, in which she was depicted in a throng of autograph hounds at San Diego Comic-Con. She was hired at Marvel that same year by then-Editor in Chief Archie Goodwin as a proofreader, but would soon work her way up the editorial ranks, presiding over titles including *Doctor Strange*, *ROM*, *Savage She-Hulk* and *Daredevil*, which coincided with the arrival of Frank Miller as penciler. Miller described Duffy as his "guardian angel," mentoring him as an artist and writer. In 1982, Duffy would join Goodwin for the launch of Marvel's creator-owned Epic imprint, where she helped launch Steve Englehart and Steve Leialoha's *Coyote* and Jim Starlin's *Dreadstar*. An ardent fan of manga, Duffy spent years lobbying to bring Japanese titles to Marvel, and in 1988 it paid off with Katsuhiro Otomo's *Akira*. This seminal, long-running series opened the door to the North American market for manga, and Duffy herself adapted the scripts. Among Duffy's other writing credits were long stints on *Star Wars* and *Power Man and Iron Fist*, the mutant miniseries *Fallen Angels*, the toy tie-in series *The Saga of Crystar: Crystal Warrior* and several issues of *Speedball* and *Wolverine*. She also wrote the graphic novel *The Punisher: Assassin's Guild*. At DC,

she scripted a pair of Batman stories and wrote the first fourteen issues of the 1993 *Catwoman* series. In 2002, Duffy teamed with Kurt Busiek to script the series *The Order*, which reunited the classic lineup of the Defenders.

BOB LAYTON

For Bob Layton, comic books were love at first sight. After graduating early from high school, Layton formed the Contemporary Pictorial Literature (CPL) Gang with fellow fan and Hoosier, Roger Stern. Together, they published fanzines out of Layton's apartment, which led to producing Charlton Comics' official fanzine *The Charlton Bullseye*. Layton soon began apprenticing for legendary artist Wallace Wood, and while delivering Wood's work to the Marvel office, Layton parlayed a chance encounter with Art Director John Romita into a regular gig as an inker on *The Champions*. Next, Layton joined writer David Michelinie in a yearlong sojourn at DC where they co-plotted books Michelinie would script and Layton would ink; among them were *Claw the Unconquered*, *Star Hunters*, and *Hercules Unbound*.

In 1978, the Michelinie/Layton team embarked on their most influential collaboration: *Iron Man*. With John Romita Jr., they took the title in a dramatic new direction—depicting Tony Stark's descent into alcoholism, and introducing supporting characters Jim Rhodes and Bethany Cabe. Beyond inking and co-plotting the title, Layton transformed Iron Man's aesthetic with innovative new armor designs. In the midst of their *Iron Man* work, Layton and Michelinie introduced Scott Lang, the new Ant-Man, in *Marvel Premiere*. After three years of triumph with *Iron Man*, Layton went solo on a 1982 *Hercules* miniseries, providing pencils and inks, and a hilarious script that introduced the bumbling buffoon "Herc" persona to Marvel. Its success led to a sequel miniseries, a graphic novel, and the 2010 miniseries *Hercules: Twilight of a God*. After launching *X-Factor* in 1986 with Jackson Guice, Layton reunited with Michelinie for another classic *Iron Man* run which included the "Armor Wars" saga.

In 1989, Layton co-founded Valiant Comics, where he presided over books like *Magnus, Robot Fighter*; *Solar, Man of the Atom*; *The Second Life of Doctor Mirage*; and the breakout hit *X-O Manowar*. After an early 2000s venture with his Future Comics start-up, Layton turned his attention to writing work in Hollywood. However, Layton remains no stranger to comics, having teamed up with Michelinie in 2008 on *Iron Man: The End* and *Iron Man: Legacy of Doom*.

BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH

A brash newcomer to the American comics scene in the late '60s, London-born Barry Windsor-Smith rose from drawing his first American comics work on a New York City park bench to become one of the medium's most influential artists, driving his passion for pre-Raphaelite naturalism and Art Nouveau design into mainstream comics.

Influenced from an early age by artists like Jack Kirby and Gil Kane, Windsor-Smith made it a goal to one day work for Marvel Comics. His first professional forays produced artwork for *X-Men*, *Daredevil* and *Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.*, all of which revealed a young man ardently working to define his own voice while mastering the lessons of his artistic forebears.

He first stepped out in a big way on *Conan the Barbarian,* Marvel's adaptation of Robert E. Howard's sword and sorcery character. It was here that Windsor-Smith developed a stunningly fresh approach to comic-art draftsmanship, holding on to Kirby's dynamic energy but pouring an increasing amount of time into detailed, lyrical figure drawing. As his skills developed, it became clear that Windsor-Smith's work on *Conan* was a clarion call for comic artists who wanted to take a more refined approach to their illustration.

In addition to making Conan into a bona fide hit, Windsor-Smith also turned in memorable work on *Avengers*, Doctor Strange in *Marvel Premiere* and Ka-Zar in *Astonishing Tales*, after which he started Gorblimey Press, his own studio that produced original prints and stories entirely of his own making, a concern that is still ongoing today.

A return to Marvel in 1984 produced a handful of projects that made a huge impression: a Machine Man limited series; the groundbreaking excursion into Wolverine's origin, "Weapon X"; "Lifedeath," a pair of timeless Storm stories told in *Uncanny X-Men*, and a myriad of classic covers, including several for *Conan Saga.*

In 1991, Windsor-Smith took on the role of creative director for Valiant Comics, an upstart company formed by former Marvel editor in chief Jim Shooter. The Valiant line, including Windsor-Smith's *Archer and Armstrong*, *Solar: Man of the Atom* and *Unity*, was a big hit in part to Windsor-Smith's masterful work. His most recent regular work was in Malibu Comics' *Rune*, Dark Horse's *BWS: Storyteller* anthology and his series of autobiographical art books, *Opus*. His accomplishments within the field were recognized by the Eisner Hall of Fame in 2008.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

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THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over America, a new storytelling medium was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States. At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary creators as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These trailblazing talents birthed a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-7
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOLS. 1-2

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the Golden Age retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, the Atlas Era had it all!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-6
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1

THE MARVEL AGE

In August 1961, change hit newsstands: *The Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. They were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves — and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different — the beginning of the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-21
ANT-MAN/GIANT-MAN VOLS. 1-3
THE AVENGERS VOLS. 1-19
THE BLACK PANTHER VOLS. 1-2
CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-11
CAPTAIN MARVEL VOLS. 1-6
THE CHAMPIONS VOL. 1
DAREDEVIL VOLS. 1-14
DEATHLOK VOL. 1
THE DEFENDERS VOLS. 1-6
DOCTOR STRANGE VOLS. 1-9
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VOLS. 1-21
GHOST RIDER VOL. 1
THE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-2
THE INCREDIBLE HULK VOLS. 1-13
THE INHUMANS VOLS. 1-2
THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN VOLS. 1-12
IRON FIST VOLS. 1-2
KA-ZAR VOLS. 1-2
KILLRAVEN VOL. 1
LUKE CAGE VOLS. 1-3
MARVEL RARITIES VOL. 1
MARVEL TEAM-UP VOLS. 1-4
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE VOLS. 1-4
THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-19
MS. MARVEL VOLS. 1-2
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. VOLS. 1-3
NOT BRAND ECHH VOL. 1
RAWHIDE KID VOLS. 1-2
THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK VOLS. 1-2
SGT. FURY VOLS. 1-4
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-2
SPIDER-WOMAN VOL. 1
THE SILVER SURFER VOLS. 1-2
THE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-8
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-12

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